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## Jordan reaffirms commitment to peace, urges global interaction

Prince Hassan, in address to U.N., reiterates Kingdom's stands, calls for effort to rectify distorted image of Islam  
Jordan supports moves to restructure world body

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JORDAN ON Tuesday reaffirmed its commitment to seeking a peaceful and stable Middle East and called for international and regional economic interaction to ensure that peace takes root in the region.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, delivering the Kingdom's speech to the annual session of the United Nations General Assembly, also reiterated Jordan's resolve to continue to extend all possible efforts to the Palestinians to ensure the success of the interim autonomy arrangements.

On Jerusalem, the Crown Prince restated that a final settlement on the political status of the Holy City "will occur in negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis."

"Any arrangement reached must serve the needs of the millions of followers of Islam, Christianity and Juda-



ism," said the Crown Prince.

The Crown Prince pledged Jordan's total support for ongoing efforts to restructure the United Nations, including the moves to expand the Security Council as well as an American proposal to boost

United Nations peacekeeping operations by additional personnel, more effective field capacities, greater cooperation between the U.N. and the participating countries.

In this context, the Crown Prince noted, Jordanian security forces are taking part in U.N. peacekeeping forces in several parts of the world and constitute the second largest unit in the U.N. force in former Yugoslavia.

Referring to the situation in the Gulf after the 1990-91 crisis, the Crown Prince voiced Jordan's firm commitment to international norms and respect for the territorial integrity of all countries.

He also voiced concern over the situation of the Iraqi people and said Jordan intended to do its "utmost to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people, so far as is consistent with the provisions of the United Nations resolutions."

The Crown Prince deplored over the "distorted image of Islam" in the West

and over the "spreading of Islamophobia."

"This phenomenon occurs in all manner of ways, from the purely verbal to the bluntly physical. Its proponents deal in inflammatory rhetoric. They preach the inevitability of cultural apocalypse, tarring all Muslims with the brush of fanatical extremism. They ignore the fact that Islam is a broad and adaptable institution. One billion Muslims now live on this earth. As such, Islam encompasses all shades of political opinion, different patterns of theological thought, and countless varieties of human experience."

"Jordan urges member states to join forces in bringing about a better understanding of Islam as a religion, a culture and a civilisation. The expression of anti-Muslim sentiment, and other manifestations of Islamophobia, should be monitored and

combated by educational campaigns, cultural exchanges and similar endeavours. We have always advocated an inter-faith dialogue as the surest way to combat bigotry and stereotyping."

At the outset of the speech, the Crown Prince expressed hope that "the principle of universality, which has always been the cornerstone of the United Nations, will soon encompass the remaining peoples and regions so that the organisation can truly represent the collective conscience of mankind."

The Crown Prince welcomed the end of apartheid in South Africa and described the country as offering "a fresh vision for a changing world."

The international com-

See page 7 for full text of the Crown Prince's speech

unity should do more to ensure that "democracy, pluralism and respect for hu-

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AUSTRIAN MESSAGE: His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday received at the Royal Court Leopold Gratz, former Austrian foreign minister, who delivered to the King a letter from Austrian President Thomas Klestil. Mr. Gratz, who is in Jordan on a week-long private visit at the invitation of King Hussein, reviewed with the King Austrian relations. King Hussein voiced appreciation of the excellent ties with Austria and the country's role in world issues at the international forums. Mr. Gratz, a former speaker of parliament and former mayor of Vienna, is accompanied on the visit by two Vienna municipal officials (Petra photo)

## King: Role in Jerusalem reflects religious duty

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday stressed Jordan's historic role in safeguarding the Arab and Islamic identity of Islamic places in Palestine, particularly in Jerusalem.

In a letter to Brigadier Mohammad Qudsieh, commander of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) in Jordan, King Hussein said Jordan's role in the upkeep of holy places "is nothing but a true reflection of the Kingdom's interest in performing its duties towards the Arab Nation and the tolerant Islamic faith."

"Moreover, it is a continuation of the role and sacrifices made by the Hashemites to safeguard the holy places and ensure the rights of the Islamic Nation," King Hussein said.

"In doing this we have no ambitions nor aspirations, ex-

cept winning God's blessing."

The King voiced appreciation to the PLA's Badr Brigade, saying that it "embodies the unique and very special relation between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples."

The King added that Jordan had never spared any effort to defend the Palestinian cause and the legitimate Palestinian rights.

The King's message was in reply to a message the PLA commander sent thanking His Majesty for his support for the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories.

Brig. Qudsieh said Jordan's historic role in safeguarding the Arab and Islamic identity of the holy places in Palestine demands "that we appeal to all Muslims around the world to stand

united in assigning religious sovereignty over Islamic places to King Hussein, the descendant of the Prophet Mohammad, and to Jordan, which inherited the message and has made every possible effort to protect Holy places."

The PLA commander thanked King Hussein for his directives to the government to provide financial and moral support to the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank, and to help them restore their inalienable rights on their national soil.

Brig. Qudsieh said the Palestinians and Jordanians "are a twin nation and one big family, sharing the same destiny and hopes."

"Nobody can divide us or harm our unity. We are all Jordanians for Jordan and Palestinians for Palestine," he said.

## White House meeting was highly positive — Anani

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said Tuesday the White House meeting on Monday among His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was successful and its outcome was highly satisfactory.

In an interview with Radio Jordan, Dr. Anani said President Clinton showed great understanding of Jordan's role and its development needs.

Dr. Anani said there was a clear recognition of Jordan's regional role and its contribution to establishing a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

He said a four-day round of peace talks between Jordan and Israel will resume on Oct. 10 at Eilat, to be followed by another round which will start in Aqaba the week after. He said negotiations between Jordan and Israel will enable Jordan to regain its rights.

Dr. Anani said the Jorda-

nian side had been able to convince the American side of the need to establish a Middle East bank to finance regional projects, and voiced hope that Jordan would have a major role in this area.

Dr. Anani said an agreement has been reached to embark on studies of the Middle East water needs. However, such studies will be conducted following Jordan's restoration of its water rights.

Dr. Anani said water projects in the Middle East are estimated to cost \$25 billion. He noted that the Jordanian side had requested the American side to help ensure the necessary funding, in view of the importance of water in securing sustainable development.

Mr. Peres said after Monday's meeting with Crown Prince Hassan in Washington that Israel and Jordan are close to solving their water conflict.

Mr. Peres told Israel's Channel Two that both border and water issues were delaying the signing of a peace

agreement between Israel and Jordan.

"On water, I think we are close to finding a solution," he said. Israeli officials have said that the water conflict was the main obstacle to reaching a treaty.

Mr. Peres said the main problem was the shortage of water in the Middle East.

"Jordan suffers from a great lack of water. They would like Israel to give up water. Israel also lacks any extra water. The real solution, therefore is to create water," Mr. Peres said.

The foreign minister said that he discussed short and long-term solutions with Crown Prince Hassan and said that a plan would be presented to build dams to collect water at the cost of some \$100 million as an initial solution.

The two agreed to long-term projects such as desalination and building canals that could take up to 10 years. Mr. Peres said a joint

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## Prince Hassan outlines steps to help investors

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has sent a message to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali summing up the findings of the newly formed Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation in the field of investments in the Kingdom.

The commission has conducted an extensive study and consulted with specialists in the various economic, financial and administrative fields of the private and public sectors and found that numerous measures can be taken in order to improve the investment climate in Jordan and facilitate and simplify formalities that can enhance the state's credibility, the Crown Prince said.

According to the Crown Prince, the following measures can be taken immediately to stimulate investments before formal legislation concerning them can be finalised:

A. Creating an investment platform. In this respect the commission suggests the following steps for its implementation:

1— The department for Encouraging Investments occupy the whole building where it is now located;

2— The appointment of personnel to work at this department provided they enjoy sufficient qualification and experience.

3— Appointment of an authorised representative for the comptroller of companies and the head of the industrial licences section as well as an official to take charge of the commercial register.

4— Each department that has to do with investments should prepare a list of requirements for economic activities and should supply a copy to the department for encouraging investments.

5— Each department concerned with investments should appoint an authorised official to take charge of receiving documents from the Department for Encouraging Investments and finalise procedures as soon as possible so that investors would not have

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(Continued on page 7)

## Israel agreeable to cutback in Golan

TEL AVIV (Agencies)

Israel would agree to a cutback in regular armed forces for a peace treaty with Syria, if Syria did the same and U.S. troops served as a buffer between them, newspapers reported Tuesday.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin hinted at this in a speech opening parliament's winter session Monday, in which he said Israel may need to make a "significant withdrawal" in the Golan Heights for peace.

But Golan expert Aryeh Shalev, a reservist brigadier at Tel Aviv University, doubts Israel could trim its armed forces as soon as a treaty was signed.

Israel seized the strategic Golan Plateau to its north-east in the 1967 Mideast war and "annexed" it in 1981. Syria wants it all back as a condition for signing peace with the Jewish state.

Security arrangements in the Golan are a critical ele-

ment of the slow-moving U.S.-brokered talks with Syria.

Mr. Rabin disclosed that Israel and Syria were negotiating "a mutual reduction of forces," in addition to demilitarising the Golan Plateau. He suggested a deployment of multinational troops, noting the example of 1,000 American troops who help monitor the 1979 Israel-Egypt treaty in the Sinai desert.

The Maariv daily said Mr. Rabin had revealed a significant and sensitive detail of negotiations, which U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will pursue when he visits the region again next week.

Another newspaper, Haaretz, said Mr. Rabin meant that Israel was ready for a reduction in forces in parallel with the Syrians, but that the cutback could not be

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## 'Jerusalem vote' snags talks

CAIRO (Agencies)

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) challenged Israel on Tuesday over its insistence that Palestinians from Arab East Jerusalem will be allowed to vote but not stand as candidates in the election for a self-rule council.

The two sides are trying to reach agreement here on arrangements for the elections to the autonomy council which will run civilian affairs in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Under the declaration of principles on autonomy signed a year ago between Israel and the PLO, Palestinians who live in Jerusalem have the right to participate in the electoral process.

"Participation means voting and also being a candidate," said Saeb Erakat, head of the Palestinian delegation, after talks Tuesday.

But the Israeli government insists the 150,000 residents of East Jerusalem, occupied and "annexed" since 1967, only have the right to vote. Israel has declared Jeru-

salem its "undivided capital," although this has not been recognised internationally. The future of the Holy City, which the Palestinians also claim as their capital, is the most sensitive issue in the Israeli-PLO peace process.

Hammie Jeshurun, spokeswoman for Israeli delegation chief Danny Rothschild, said there were also "differences over establishing electoral rolls."

"The Palestinians themselves don't know their population figures," Ms. Jeshurun said.

General Rothschild commented that the Palestinians "don't know who lives in the West Bank because some inhabitants only have residency permits. They haven't taken a census for several years."

But Dr. Erakat, Palestinian local government minister, said the Palestinians had completed their survey of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, and were waiting for the Israelis to provide them with information on the West Bank population.

"We have presented our request to the Israeli side concerning the population records that we need to start our registration process... We hope our team will acquire them as soon as possible," he said.

Only the Israeli military administration which ran the West Bank and Gaza after the 1967 war has detailed information on the Palestinian population but has not handed it over despite repeated PLO requests.

"We must establish criteria for those eligible to vote and there are disagreements on that too but talks are continuing," Ms. Jeshurun said. "The Palestinians cannot decide these questions alone. It must be done by common agreement," she said.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat wants the council — which will replace the appointed Palestinian National Authority running limited self-rule since May — to be elected by Nov. 1.

But when talks began here

(Continued on page 7)

## Haiti coup leader flees

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies)

Feared Port-Au-Prince police chief Joseph Michel Francois, a key figure in the military coup three years ago, fled Haiti Tuesday but was stopped at the border for a lack of papers and allowed to proceed after a delay, U.S. officials and other sources said.

They said the lieutenant-colonel, suspected of ordering the deaths of thousands of anti-military activists, was stopped by Dominican Republic authorities in the border town of Jimani, 60 kilometres east of here.

"Apparently he did not have a laissez-passer and was denied entry into the Dominican Republic," embassy spokesman Stanley Schragger told a news conference, provoking peals of laughter. "We presume that this will soon be worked out."

Gen. Francois' departure came on the 15th day of a U.S. operation to pave the way for the return of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, ousted in a military coup on Sept. 30, 1991.

It also followed stepped-up efforts Monday by the 21,000-strong U.S. force to restore order to the impoverished Caribbean nation by clamping down on paramilitary thugs and confiscating their weapons.

The shadowy Francois, 37, was believed to be one of the most active officers in the coup, also spearheaded by army chief Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras and his chief of staff Brigadier General Philippe Biamby.

The junta had until Oct. 15 to step down from power under an agreement reached Sept. 18 to avert a U.S. invasion. Gen. Cedras has said he

had no plans to leave the country afterward and there was no word on Gen. Biamby's intentions.

Mr. Schragger called Gen. Francois' departure "an important step in the peaceful transition to democracy" in Haiti. "I would hope it would accelerate the departure of the others," he said.

Informed sources said Gen. Francois' wife and children fled to the Dominican Republic before the arrival of the U.S. troops. They said his brother Evans, a former diplomat, came from Santo Domingo on Monday to pick up the police chief and they left during the night.

During the years of military rule, Joseph Michel Francois was a mysterious figure in Haiti and refused to be interviewed or even photo-

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# ICRC pleads for urgent end to Kabul battle

By Cathy King  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on Tuesday issued an urgent appeal for international intervention to stop the factional battles rocking Afghanistan.

From the beginning of September until Sept. 26, 15,000 patients had been treated by the capital's four surgical hospitals, but almost 14,000 of them were treated as out-patients as hospitals are stretched to their full potential, the ICRC said.

"Over the past three weeks, 17,000 — most of them civilians — have been wounded in the fighting in Kabul alone. One of the city's main hospitals, Karte was hit by a rocket on Sept. 22. Two children were killed and 10 people wounded... humanitarian convoys have been unable to get through since June, and stocks of medicines and food have now run out," said an ICRC press release.

Yves Giovannoni, head of the ICRC delegation in Am-

man, said that the Ministry of Health's warehouse in Kabul was hit by a rocket recently destroying its contents of pharmaceuticals.

Mr. Giovannoni has served with the ICRC in Afghanistan between 1989-91, and until 1993 he made visits to the country.

In the past two and a half years there have been six battles in Kabul, Mr. Giovannoni told a press conference. Hundreds of thousands have been wounded and half a million people have been displaced; 60,000 people have sought accommodation in schools and mosques and remain fully dependent on the ICRC in cooperation with the Afghanistan Red Crescent.

Afghanistan is on the point of fragmentation as clashes erupt in many areas of the country resulting in regular killings, he said.

The state infrastructure has disintegrated. Employment is limited and prices have soared because of the continuing siege of the city. The blockade of Kabul has also prevented the ICRC from

landing plane carrying provisions for two months. However, a month ago they dropped medical supplies including antibiotics, but more supplies remain in Jalalabad because the road linking the city with Kabul is currently blocked, Mr. Giovannoni said.

The ICRC delegate in Kabul, Peter Stocker, said in a telephone conference with journalists in Amman that the last couple of days had been quiet. He spoke optimistically about the cooperation between warring factions to allow relief and medical provisions to reach the city.

However, he expressed concern that the people's regular resources will be unable to cope with the impending winter weather.

He also said that without foreign aid and financial support it will be difficult for the ICRC to continue its operations.

Mr. Giovannoni said that the ICRC, on behalf of the Afghan people, was appealing to the Arab World and in particular to wealthy Muslim

states for money to help finance medical and relief projects.

It is ICRC priority to sensitize the Arab media to the plight of Afghanistan to increase awareness and convey knowledge about the terrible situation there, he said.

International organisations have closed down or moved out of Kabul, which has been under siege virtually as long as Sarajevo. Only the ICRC and a handful of non-government organisations (NGOs) remain to try to restore humanitarian conditions, Mr. Giovannoni said.

Afghanistan is no longer a centre of strategic importance except for regional powers, and there are few journalists present to provide international coverage of developments. The ICRC is therefore recognising its responsibility to speak up.

In the absence of law and order and little respect for the press from the Afghan warlords, not many journalists are keen to take up assignments in the chaotic country.

## Israelis seek to export security

TEL AVIV (AP) — Want to make your phone calls untraceable? Need to shoot through the windows of your bulletproof car? Or just looking to replace the old picket fence with an Israeli army tested perimeter security system?

They were all on exhibit in Tel Aviv Monday, part of a growing effort by Israeli firms to pound the tools of conflict and isolation into a peacetime export industry.

Standing next to a sign that said "The CIA, KGB, Mossad and now you," Jacob Solan recalled how for decades he provided "various institutions" with the only phone link from Israel to surrounding countries via a special exchange in Lebanon.

The budding ties — and phone links — with the Arab World could have put him out of business.

Instead, the experience gave him the Solan Telecommunications idea of incorporating phone line scrambling techniques in his exchange to provide "untraceable international dialing, solan said.

Displays at the International Exhibition on Security, Protection, Safety and Defence ranged from computerised smoke detection and alarm systems to devices to

expose forged bills. Some of the smaller start-ups are joining established weapons giants in converting military technology to civilian use.

The state-owned weapons industry lost nearly a record \$1 billion last year, part of a worldwide slump. But with security exports accounting for almost a fifth of Israel's \$15 billion in exports, reviving the sector is vital to the economy.

A successful cooperative effort was posted by Magal Security Systems, whose surveillance system was jointly developed with Israel Aircraft Industries and tested at army bases.

"I can adjust it to any size intruder in any light and it can distinguish between man and object," said Magal marketing head Dov Topaz, regaling onlookers with little plastic dinosaurs whose every movement was recorded by a rotating video camera and computer.

Military experience also aided Oran, which outfits Israeli army jeeps with bullet-resistant glass with a twist — you can fire through it at assailants outside.

"We developed the glass to meet the dangers of the intifada," the six-year Palestinian uprising, said marketing

head Yossi Gershon. "Today, with all due humility, our windows are the world leaders in both light weight and thickness. They are very useful for a lot of people who would otherwise feel unsafe."

He said the company moved several years ago into exports, which now account for two-thirds of its \$15 million in sales.

Some items originated from Israel's relatively advanced hi-tech academic research, like Zamir Systems' licence plate recognition system developed from recent computer vision breakthroughs at the Hebrew University.

Business development director Mark Simon demonstrated the product with an electronic race car whose 10-centimetre licence plate was read, deciphered and displayed on a computer screen in a split-second whenever it passed a unit beside the circular track.

Mr. Simon said the system was in use in Israel and Spain to allow selective access to parking lots and was being extended to allow identifying traffic violators — an improvement over the photo and video-based systems currently in use by police worldwide.

## Iran and Iraq want better ties

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati expressed hopes for closer relations between the two countries during a meeting Monday at the United Nations, an Iranian source said.

Iran and Iraq, which fought a bloody war from 1980 to 1988, have diplomatic relations at the charge d'affaires level. But many issues stemming from the war remain unresolved.

These include the fate of thousands of prisoners or soldiers missing in action, Iranian claims for reparations, and the dredging and reopening of the Shatt Al Arab waterway.

Mr. Aziz was said to have repeated a two-year-old invitation for Mr. Velayati to visit Baghdad, but no date was set, the source said.

Mr. Velayati was reported to have spoken positively of the work of lower-level delegations which the two countries have exchanged from time to time.

The Iranian source said Mr. Velayati told a closed-door meeting earlier of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) that Iran was concerned at the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Mr. Velayati was said to have called on all parties to take steps to bring this situation on an early end.

"Bilateral cooperation is possible and useful," he was quoted as saying by IRNA. Mr. Aziz called for cooperation based on the two countries' "commonalities," IRNA said.

Mr. Velayati's planned visit to Baghdad follows a year of dialogue towards normalising ties and diplomatic exchange in late 1993 and early 1994.

The visit, first announced in November and again in February and in June, was postponed over several thorny issues, such as prisoners of war and Iraq's support for the main Iranian armed opposition group.

The minister was last said to be due in Iraq in July, but a delegation which was to have prepared his trip cancelled a visit at the last minute.

## Berbers prepare for general strike

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria's Berber people geared up Tuesday for a 48-hour general strike aimed at winning recognition of their language and culture, and the fate of kidnapped Berber singer Lounes Matoub remained unknown.

The Berber Cultural Movement (MCB) called for the second strike in "business and the administration" in a fortnight in the Kabylie region of the country, an MCB official in the "Berber capital," Tizi-Ouzou, told AFP.

Traders in Tizi-Ouzou, 110 kilometres east of Algiers, have been asked to close their shops on Wednesday morning, the first day of the strike, the official told AFP.

He added that the movement had no news of Mr. Matoub, who was abducted by armed gunmen near Tizi-Ouzou nine days ago in a terror attack blamed by the MCB and Algerian authorities on Muslim fundamentalists.

More than 100,000 Berber demonstrators threatened in-

surrection Sunday unless the suspected Islamic extremists released Mr. Matoub, and also demanded recognition of their language, Tamazight.

But the official on Tuesday said the MCB was calling off a demonstration it had planned to hold in Algiers on Thursday. The first strike two weeks ago paralysed the Kabylie region but had little impact elsewhere.

The government last week said it would set up a commission to study bringing Tamazight teaching into schools, but this move was rejected as inadequate by the MCB, representatives of descendants of Algeria's original inhabitants.

In another development Tuesday, the armed Movement of the Islamic State (MEI) slammed the weekend appointment of a former fundamentalist leader as head of the country's most radical armed faction, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA).

The GIA is a prime suspect in the kidnapping of Mr. Matoub, which followed

Thursday's assassination in Oran, western Algeria, of another renowned singer, rapper Chab Hasni, in an unclaimed attack.

In a statement signed by MEI leader and army deserter Said Makhloufi and his deputy Rabah Guettaf, the movement denounced the GIA's appointment of Mohammed Said as "a plot against the jihad (holy war) and a Machiavellian plan to destroy the mujahedeen (guerrilla fighters)."

A former teacher of literature from the Kabylie region, Said — whose real name is Lounes Belkacemi — joined the GIA in May and was in August named head of the "government or caliphate" declared by the GIA.

In December 1991 he was elected a member of parliament for the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in the first round of elections that the military had annulled in January 1992 when it became clear the FIS was going to win.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Olmert to lead anti-Arafat protest

AMSTERDAM (R) — Jerusalem's Israeli Mayor, Ehud Olmert, reiterated on Monday he will stop the Israeli government from inviting Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to visit the Holy City. "We will stop the government from inviting Arafat and I will lead the opposition in every possible legal way," Mr. Olmert told Reuters after an address to a Dutch audience. He added that the Israeli government might have serious problems finding majority support in parliament for Mr. Arafat's visit to the Muslim holy places in Jerusalem. Mr. Olmert would not give any indication when he planned to start organising possible action against Mr. Arafat's visit. "Arafat is not a regular guy. He used to proclaim death to the Jewish people and to claim Jerusalem for the Arabs. If he comes there will be violence, it is a danger not worth taking," Mr. Olmert said. He also said that the future of Jerusalem should be discussed in peace negotiations as soon as possible. "It's an explosive issue which can destroy the entire peace process. Therefore we should deal with it right away," he said.

### EI Al to come out of receivership

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli carrier El Al will emerge from 12 years of receivership next February, according to Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar. Receivership had been set to end on Oct. 14, but Mr. Kessar told the parliamentary economic committee on Monday that the deadline was impossible to meet. The government has announced privatisation plans to start this month with 51 per cent of the company to be sold off. But that too looks likely to be delayed, not for the first time, as officials said proposals, including an estimated company valuation of between \$150 million and \$200 million and a golden share scheme, had yet to be finalised. El Al returned a profit of \$9.9 million during 1993 or about one per cent of turnover, the eighth consecutive year of profit, but considerably down on the \$31 million of 1992. Managing Director Rafi Harlev said he expected similar profit this year. "If it were not for our security costs our profit would have been double," he claimed. El Al pays 20 per cent of costs for high security while the government pays the rest. Mr. Kessar told the committee he favoured having the government assume all security costs to help El Al become more competitive.

### First Gulf tourists book Israel tours

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The first 200 tourists from Gulf states have booked guided tours of the Holy Land for early next year, an Israeli airline said Tuesday. The group from Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have made reservations for a week-long tour of Muslim, Jewish and Christian sites, said Izi Borowitz, managing director of the Arkia airline. He told the radio they would arrive in Israel via a European country as there are no direct flights to the Gulf. Mr. Borowitz said the growing success of the Middle East peace process could bring "thousands of tourists from the Gulf to Israel each year." Official Israeli delegations have recently been welcomed in Oman, Bahrain and Qatar although there are no diplomatic relations.

### Palau and Israel launch diplomatic ties

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel became the fourth country to establish diplomatic relations with the newly-independent Pacific island of Palau this week, the foreign ministry said Tuesday. The Oceania archipelago of 340 islands which is inhabited by 16,000 people and lies east of the Philippines, declared its independence on Saturday. Israel's Ambassador to Fiji, Shmuel Moyal signed an accord with Palau Foreign Minister Andre Uherbclau the following day, officials said. The islands became a United States trust territory after World War II and Washington remains responsible for external security. Palau, which opened diplomatic ties immediately with the United States, Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia, became the 147th country to establish full relations with the Jewish state.

### Ciller declares war on corruption

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller declared war on corruption Monday, vowing in a televised address that "not one case" would be covered up — "whoever is involved, whoever might be exposed." With the media daily announcing new revelations in a bribery scandal relating to the administration of Turgut Ozal, the former premier and president who died last year, Ciller promised that corruption would be "tracked down as far as it goes, whoever may be implicated." She said she had given her orders and that all reports would be scrupulously investigated. The scandal has seen allegations of corruption levelled against Ozal, his family, businessmen close to Ozal family members and former senior state officials. The reports have alleged links between administrative officials and the Turkish mafia. On Sept. 19 a former director of the Turkish state bank, Engin Civan, was shot by a hired gunman. From his hospital bed, where he was receiving treatment for three gunshot wounds, he accused a businessman said to be close to the Ozal family of seeking to intimidate him in relation to a disputed debt. Ozal formed Turkey's Motherland Party in 1983 and was elected prime minister in that year, a post he relinquished to assume the presidency in 1989. He died following a heart attack in April last year, having been largely credited with laying the foundations of Turkey's free market economy.

### Frenchman charged with embezzlement in Morocco

RABAT (R) — French national Michel Debreteigne, 58, has been charged with embezzlement, fraud and false pretences after swindling residents of Morocco by posing as a diplomat and international expert, the press reported on

Monday. The French embassy in Rabat confirmed the Debreteigne was in prison in Marrakesh, the southern Moroccan city where he has been living for five years. Debreteigne lived in a chic residential quarter with Moroccan wife and drove an American limousine with Canadian diplomatic plates, the Rabat daily L'Opinion said. His visiting card read: Michel de Bretagne, industrial expert, economic adviser, member of International College of Experts, permanent expert consultant international organisations, honorary attorney Quebec high court. Maghreb permanent representative of world organisations of International College of Experts. "Opinion said Debreteigne claimed he was decorated by Jean-Bedel Bokassa, the former Central African emperor, for services rendered as an adviser, and always wore the ribbon on his lapel. It said he had issued bad cheques and also swindled more than 90 million dirhams (\$10 million) from Moroccan, Swiss and Algerian businessmen in the Marrakesh area. He faces up to five years in prison if convicted.

### Egypt and Iran agree to continue dialogue

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt and Iran have decided to continue dialogue in a bid to improve relations after 15 years of tension between the two countries, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Monday. "I agreed with Iranian Foreign Minister (Ali Akbar) Velayati to maintain dialogue between the two countries," Mr. Musa told reporters as he returned here after attending the U.N. General Assembly in New York. Mr. Musa and Mr. Velayati met last Tuesday on the sidelines of the U.N. meeting. Tehran broke off ties with Cairo after the Iranian revolution in 1979, and Egypt's peace treaty with Israel in the same year. Cairo has accused Tehran of supporting Islamic militants, who launched a violent campaign to topple Egypt's secularist government four years ago. In June the two countries decided to coordinate with each other at international forums. This coordination was evident during the U.N. world population conference held last month in Cairo, when the two countries lobbied against abortion.

### Israel hails military ties with Chile

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin hailed military cooperation between his country and Chile during a meeting Monday with Chilean Defence Minister Edmundo Perez Yoma, a government spokesman said. "Our cooperation and good relations between our two countries, our two armies and our people have a solid foundation," said Mr. Rabin, who is also defence minister. Mr. Perez Yoma, who arrived in Israel Sunday for a three-day visit, said his government had an interest in "maintaining its close relations" with the Jewish state. He is to visit Israeli military bases and arms factories during his visit. Chile is among the leading purchasers of Israeli arms, according to Western military experts who say Israel has sold Merkava tanks, Kfir fighter planes, as well as missiles and patrol boats to the South American state.

### Rebuilding homes in Iraq put in the spotlight

ERBIL (AFP) — Some 26 international groups including U.N. agencies attended a one-day workshop on Monday to examine ways of rebuilding thousands of homes destroyed in northern Iraq. U.N. deputy coordinator Victor Wahlross said the aim of the meeting "was to review the reconstruction work of the last three years, to assess successes and failures and to look for possibilities to improve the work." Northern Iraq has been under Kurdish control in defiance of Baghdad since the end of the Gulf war in February 1991, with the backing of a U.S.-led coalition. According to local authorities about 4,100 villages were destroyed in the area in clashes between the Iraqi army and Kurdish fighters. Some 2,245 have been rebuilt since the end of 1993. Mr. Wahlross, a Finn based in Baghdad, said after the meeting that participants agreed to give priority to rebuilding homes in traditional style with "natural stone, mud or gypsum" which they said were better than "concrete blocks." They also voiced hopes that Kurdish authorities would "gradually take over responsibility for the work." One local administrator Rast Shawayi, said he thought the U.N. agencies and non-governmental organisations would "start to cooperate more closely" with Kurdish authorities.

### Journalists end hunger strike in Cairo

CAIRO (AFP) — Fifteen journalists from the opposition party newspaper Al Ahram ended a hunger strike on Monday after four of their colleagues were released from detention, sources at the paper said. The four were arrested on Sunday when police seized control of the headquarters of the opposition party also called Al Ahram. The eviction came after a long battle between the party and the owner of the building, when a court finally ruled against Al Ahram's appeal not to be turned out. The party's leader Mustafa Kamel Murad, said he was to lay a complaint against the Interior Ministry accusing it of taking documents from the party and the paper, both housed in the same building. Two weeks ago the paper's editor-in-chief, Mustafa Bakri, was detained and questioned before being released with a warning. Police accused him of having received bribes from "foreign parties" to put down Egypt's image.

### Mine blast kills Bangladeshi in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A Bangladeshi worker was killed recently in a mine explosion in northern Kuwait, the daily Al Watan said Monday. Two other foreign nationals were also wounded in the blast in the Sulabiya area and hospitalised, the paper added without giving their nationalities. About 50 people have died in similar incidents since the end of the Gulf war in February 1991, despite efforts by demining experts hired by Kuwait to get rid of all the devices abandoned by Iraqi forces.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 ..... Les Tresors Du Monde  
17:30 ..... News in French  
19:10 ..... Battleground Galicia  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... P.M. Magazine  
21:10 ..... Cracking the Code  
22:00 ..... News in English  
23:20 ..... Poldark  
23:30 ..... The Exile

### PRAYER TIMES

04:18 ..... Fair  
05:27 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuha  
11:24 ..... Dhuhr  
14:46 ..... Asr  
16:22 ..... Maghrib  
18:39 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Switzerland, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.  
637285  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.  
627440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Ternassanta Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.  
623411  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.  
628433  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.  
771331

## Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.

775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel.  
625256  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.  
824328  
German-speaking Evangelical Con-  
gregation Tel. 684195  
The Church of Jesus Christ of  
Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691  
The Evangelical Local Church in  
Amman Tel. 811295

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department  
of Meteorology.  
Hot and dusty weather conditions  
will prevail with clouds  
appearing at different altitudes and  
a chance of thunderous shower in  
the northern and eastern parts of  
the Kingdom. Winds will be easterly  
light to moderate. In Amman, it  
will be hot and partly cloudy with  
winds northerly active and seas  
choppy.

Min/Max temp. .... 19/23  
Amman ..... 26/35  
Deserts ..... 18/35  
Jordan Valley ..... 25/39

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 34 Amman 38. Humidity

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 25 per cent,  
Aqaba 28 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Ghaleb Zawaideh ..... 736011  
Dr. Yousef Nasr ..... 751144  
Dr. Khaldoun Asfour ..... 665873  
Dr. Fakhri Bilbeis ..... 663612  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 626762  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Shameisi pharmacy ..... 644945  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 626762  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632  
IBRD:  
Dr. Mohammad Al Khalili 273099  
Al Quds pharmacy ..... (—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih ..... 906130  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

Electric Power  
Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 06-53300  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630341  
Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police 192 621111 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 617031  
Blood Bank ..... 60121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information  
(directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 961101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615

Electric Power  
Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 06-53300  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ana

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. .... 6424412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 6641714  
Al-Mushter Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Mushter Hospital ..... 6672779  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 66612757  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 6641646  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 7771013  
Al-Bashir, J. Abdali ..... 7711126  
Army, Shmeisani ..... 89161115  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 60224050  
Amal Hospital ..... 641555  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa Private Hospital ..... 614155  
Jbn Sina Hospital ..... (09)90560  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)90990  
IBRD:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)27275  
Jbn Al Nafes Hospital ..... (02)247100  
AQAHA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

department at the Queen Alia In-  
ternational Airport, Tel. (06)53302-  
5, where it should always be ver-  
ified.

### ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:45 ..... Amman (RJ)  
08:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
08:30 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
08:45 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
09:25 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
12:30 ..... Amman (RJ)  
15:15 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
16:35 ..... London (RJ)  
17:25 ..... Paris (RJ)  
18:00 ..... Brussels (RJ)  
18:10 ..... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)  
18:25 ..... Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)  
06:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
18:30 ..... Rome (RJ)  
19:40 ..... Istanbul (RJ)  
06:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)

10:25 ..... Larnaca (CY)  
10:30 ..... Yemen (YV)  
10:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
11:10 ..... Damascus (AZ)

## HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ..... 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Amman ..... 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Amman ..... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman ..... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in US per kg.

Apple ..... 700/400  
Banana ..... 600  
Banana (Mukannar) ..... 620  
Cabbage ..... 110/50  
Carrot ..... 260/160  
Cauliflower ..... 260/160  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 150/100  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 300/200  
Eggplant ..... 260/160  
Garlic ..... 1000/600  
Grapes ..... 500/300  
Grapes (Hilwan) ..... 500/300  
Guava ..... 500/300  
Lemon ..... 260/160  
Marrow (large) ..... 140/50  
Marrow (small) ..... 320/220  
Mulukhiyah ..... 180/100  
Onion (green) ..... 340/200  
Onion (dry) ..... 340/200  
Sweet Melon ..... 340/200  
Pepper (hot) ..... 300/200  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 300/200  
Potato ..... 300/200  
Pomegranate ..... 340/200  
Spinach ..... 280/180  
Tomato ..... 200/100  
String Beans ..... 250/150  
Watermelon ..... 200/120

Other Flights (Terminal 2)  
05:30 ..... Beirut, Paris (AF)  
06:15 ..... Beirut (ME)  
11:15 ..... Larnaca (CY)  
11:30 ..... Yemen (YV)  
12:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
12:10 ..... Rome (



## Visiting Tunisian trade team explores joint industrial venture prospects

AMMAN (Petra) — A Tunisian trade and industrial team led by Arabi Ben Youssef, head of industrial development, Tuesday opened talks here to explore prospects for joint industrial ventures.

Mr. Ben Youssef said at the start of meetings that his team plans to exchange ideas with Jordanian industrialists and business people and to present proposals for future cooperation.

Tunisia and Jordan are both centrally located in their

respective region which helps them market their individual or joint products in North Africa and the Middle East, said Mr. Ben Youssef.

The Jordanian team to the talks Tuesday was led by Fayez Suheimat, director general of the Jordanian Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) who deputised for Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf.

Dr. Suheimat said Jordan was intent on adopting plans aimed at raising the standard

of industrial cooperation with Tunisia.

Noting that the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Jordan was doing all it can to help the development of private sector industries, Dr. Suheimat said all efforts are being exerted to open new markets for high quality Jordanian industrial products.

During the two-day meetings, the two sides are expected to appraise the industrial situation in Tunisia and Jordan and study proposals for launching joint investment schemes.

The Tunisian team is expected also to meet Jordanian industrialists and discuss trade and industrial enterprises. The group will also tour the Sahab Industrial City near Amman.

Senior officials from the Ministry of Industry and Trade were present at the meeting.



An automotive manufacturing plant in S. Korea turns out popular four-wheel drive vehicles which are among those imported by Jordan (file photo)

## S. Korean envoy praises cooperation with Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian and South Korean officials are currently studying the prospect of establishing a research and studies institute in the Kingdom specialising in technological, scientific and economic issues similar to an institute in South Korea, according to Korean ambassador to Jordan Oh Chung Il Tuesday.

South Korea meanwhile continues to provide training to Jordanians in educational, scientific and electronic fields while several Korean students continued to learn Arabic at Jordanian universities, said the ambassador in a statement marking his country's national day Tuesday.

Mr. Oh voiced his country's backing for His Majesty

King Hussein's political stands on various regional and international questions, particularly the peace process in the Middle East.

Jordan has a pivotal role to play in this peace process, and South Korea will continue to support the negotiating process for the attainment of just and durable peace, said the ambassador.

Describing Korean-Jordanian relations as good, the ambassador said that bilateral cooperation in various fields was expected to emerge as a result of the peace process.

The ambassador said he hoped that Jordan and Korea will open a direct air route between Seoul and Amman to encourage Korean tourists to visit Jordan.

## Government to write off interest on loans to farmers — minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government Tuesday announced plans to write off an estimated JD11 million in interest on loans to farmers.

The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC), which has been granting the loans to farmers, will arrange for the write offs in accordance with directives from the Council of Ministers, said Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif in a statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

So that the ACC is able to continue its work, the government plans to offer it a JD 7 million grant and an additional JD 7 million in an interest free loan which can be loaned to farmers, said the minister.

The ACC will also arrange to write off loans to the Jordan Cooperative

Organisation (JCO), but the amount will be studied by a special committee, said Mr. Ben Tarif.

The decision to write off the loan interest followed another measure by the government by which the state treasury would bear the difference in actual payments for agricultural water during the last quarter of this year resulting from a recent hike in tariffs.

The government said that JD 1 million has been allocated to pay for the difference in water prices. Mr. Ben Tarif had said then that the Council of Ministers set up a special committee comprising parliamentarians, farmers and government officials to work out other arrangements to assist the farmers.

In his statement Tuesday, Mr. Ben Tarif said farmers who had borrowed less than JD 2,000 will be totally exempted from paying interest, adding that exemptions will range from 80 per cent to 30 per cent



Mansour Ben Tarif

for those farmers who borrowed between JD 2,000 and JD 50,000. The exemptions are detailed as follows:

— JD 2,000 to JD 5,000 — 80 per cent exemption.  
— JD 5,001 to JD 10,000 — 60 per cent exemption.  
— JD 10,001 to JD 15,000 — 50 per cent exemption.  
— JD 15,001 to JD 30,000 — 40 per cent exemption.  
— JD 30,001 to JD 50,000 — 30 per cent exemption.

The earlier decision to increase the cost of agricultural water from six to 15 fils per cubic metre had drawn angry protests from farmers.

A large group of farmers supported by several Parliament members staged a sit-in and announced they would stage a general strike later in protest against the decision.

## 3 confess to links with militant Islamic group

AMMAN (AP) — Three defendants on Tuesday confessed in court that they were linked to a militant group which has carried out subversive operations in Jordan.

The three men confirmed that confessions they made to prosecutors before the trial began Aug. 26 were accurate.

They did not say what the confessions contained. But court records showed that they told prosecutors that arms and explosives seized from their homes earlier this year belonged to them.

The names of the defendants and details of the four-hour hearing at the State Security Court could not be published under orders from the three-man tribunal.

So far, 16 of the 20 defendants who have testified before the tribunal have retracted their confessions, claiming they were extracted under "physical pressure."

Tuesday's testimony raised the number of defendants who have confirmed their confessions to four.

One defendant admitted in court Sunday that he had bombed an Amman movie theatre on Jan. 26 because it was showing a pornographic film.

The tribunal was adjourned until Saturday, when two more defendants are expected to take the stand.

Twenty-five people, including three still at large, are being tried on charges of

plotting to destabilise the Kingdom in a wave of bombings in late 1993 and early 1994.

They face the death penalty for also attempting to kill Jordanian and Palestinian officials involved in peace negotiations with Israel and plotting attacks against U.S. and Israeli interests in the region.

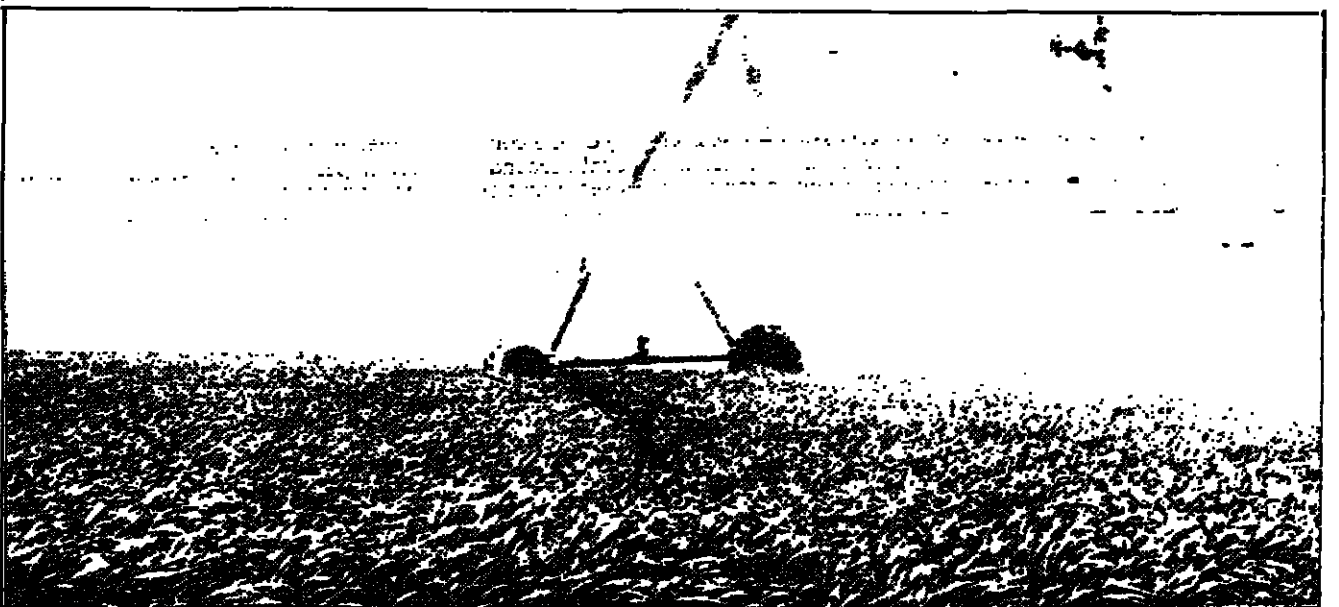
The men are also accused of affiliation with a clandestine group, nicknamed the "Arab Afghans." It consists mainly of Islamic veterans who fought alongside Muslim rebels in Afghanistan against Soviet forces during the 1980s.

The prosecution claims

that the men were stockpiling arms and explosives for a campaign to purge Jordan's predominantly conservative Muslim society of people they consider to be religiously corrupt and pro-Western.

Prosecution witnesses, mostly police officers, have told the tribunal that homemade explosives confiscated from the defendants' homes in February matched those that were used to bomb liquor stores and cinemas showing pornographic films.

Muslim extremists vehemently oppose the sale and consumption of alcoholic drinks and lewd programmes because they contravene with Islamic teachings.



Disi aquifer waters being used for wheat irrigation in southern Jordan (AFP photo)

## British MP arrives for discussions on scientific, technological progress

By Cathy King  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — During a two-day visit to Jordan, Oct. 3-4, British parliamentarian David Hunt met with Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Ishaidat, President of Yarmouk University Marwan Kamal, and various scientists to discuss scientific and technological developments in Jordan.

The visit to the Kingdom, which was part of a tour of the region, was primarily a fact-finding one, but was also meant to strengthen a Jordan-U.K. partnership which has already established several joint projects, Mr. Hunt told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

He said that three projects were of particular significance: the Badia project, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the Duke of Kent, is co-organised by the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) with Britain's Royal Geographical Society / Durham University.

"British and Jordanian scientists are working together to study all aspects of physical and human environment in the desert," Mr. Hunt said.

He explained that although the study was being conducted "around Safawi in the southeast, the result will be applied to all arid and semi-arid lands, which comprise most of Jordan."

"It is an outstanding example of cooperation in research and development with a direct developmental benefit," he added.

There is also an institutional linkage, funded by British aid, between Jordan's Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and the British Geological Survey.

Part of this project is the provision of advanced training for Jordanian experts in Britain, Mr. Hunt said.

The training offered for cartographers has resulted in a cartographical centre which is entirely manned by Jordanian staff who produce precise geographical maps, he continued.

Mr. Hunt said cooperation "maintains the close links formed over the years between Jordanian and British scientists in a field of real economic importance to Jordan."

The third project is the Disi aquifer study.

"This has been funded by nearly JD 5 million of British aid. The results of the study are of great importance to Jordan."

Mr. Hunt told the Jordan Times that there were academic exchanges between the two countries, and official scholarships are awarded by the Royal Scientific Society, the British Council and the Overseas Development Agency (ODA) to Jordanian students to study at British universities.

The personal interest of Crown Prince Hassan had generated a great deal of stimulus for the various projects, he said.

Mr. Hunt's tour of the region included a visit to Egypt, and from Jordan he left for Israel.

"The whole region has great potential and it will benefit from cooperation and links with Britain," he said.

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Mr. Hunt's tour of the region included a visit to Egypt, and from Jordan he left for Israel.

ance to Jordan in securing and planning future water resources," he said.

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## PNA delegation visit delayed

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The visit of a Palestinian delegation scheduled to begin on Tuesday has been put off until Sunday because of technical reasons, official sources said.

"Since most of the senior officials from both sides are otherwise occupied, the date has been forwarded to Sunday," said one source. It was the third time that the resumption of coordination and cooperation talks was delayed after senior officials from Jordan and the Palestine National Authority in Gaza and Jericho met in Amman in August.

Jordanian officials said at that time that the Kingdom had presented several proposals to the Palestinian side, particularly over issues related to economic and trade relations, and the PNA side was expected to present its responses and views on them in early September.

Subsequently, the talks were put off again until late September and then again to Tuesday following a visit to Amman by Hakan Balawi, a senior PNA official and close confidant of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Palestinian sources said the delegation expected to arrive on Sunday would be led by Ahmad Qouriea, economy minister in the self-rule authority, instead of Culture and Information

Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo.

No explanation was immediately available to the switch, but the presence of Mr. Qouriea in the team indicated that the Palestinians might be more willing to discuss in details the Jordanian proposals on economic cooperation.

The delegation would include the PNA ministers of health, communication, transport, justice and education, the sources said.

The PLO leadership has not ratified an economic agreement it signed with Jordan in January and modified in May. The document provides for a strong Jordanian say in the monetary and economic affairs of the occupied territories by virtue of the fact that the Jordanian dinar is the main currency in circulation there.

Mr. Qouriea, who was reported to have submitted his resignation to Mr. Arafat two weeks ago and then withdrew it, was one of the key figures involved in drawing up the agreement. This, his inclusion in the team expected here was taken as a sign the PNA might be getting round to finally tackling the issue of the economic accord and its provisions.

Mr. Arafat is reportedly resisting the document's provisions that give a prominent role to the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) in supervising the monetary

situation and banking affairs of the West Bank and Gaza Strip since he is seeking to issue a Palestinian currency and set up a Palestinian monetary authority.

However, international monetary experts say, it would be a major mistake if the Palestinians decide to issue a currency at this point in time.

"Simple economic logic dictates that the issuance of a Palestinian currency would create problems for the self-rule authority," said an expert. "Of course, if politics and not economy is the consideration there then that logic does not apply at all."

Jordan is also seeking PNA action on imports of Jordanian products after the Kingdom secures an Israeli agreement to \$30 million worth of Jordanian exports to the parts of the West Bank which have yet to come under Palestinian self-rule.

According to several Jordanian businessmen, Israel itself has not started issuing its own permits for the imports from Jordan. But "there is also marked discouragement from the PNA side against imports from Jordan," said a businessman who said he had sent samples of his products and had secured approval of quality and packing, and was waiting for final orders.

## JBA issues new book on companies law

AMMAN (J.T.) — "The Companies Law No. 1 of 1989" is the title of a new publication issued by the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA). The book is the third in a series of English publications on the investment climate in Jordan.

A press release from the JBA Tuesday said the book was to serve as a guide for foreign investors to help them obtain the right information about investment laws and company regulations.

The 15-part book provides the full version of the law and its provisions concerning all types of companies as well as regulations concerning mergers and liquidation.

The JBA earlier published "Investment Climate in Jordan 1993" and "Foreign Investment in Jordan — Laws and Regulations 1994."

Save water every drop counts...

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FILM

Concert of classical Arabic music by Algerian band "Rahiq Al Andalus" at the site of the Byzantine Church at Darat Al Fumun, Jabal Luweibdeh at 7:30 p.m. (Tel. 643251/2).

### FILM

Video film entitled "Truly Madly Deeply" at the British Council, Jabal Amman (Tel. 638194).

### SEMINAR AND LECTURE

Seminar in Arabic entitled "Asthma and Public Health" with the participation of Dr. Rami Irani, Dr. Khaled Abu Rumman, and Dr. Youssef N'amat at Abdull Hameed Shouman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

Lecture in English entitled "Meeting the Edomites at Khirbet Mu'allaa and on Top of Jabal Al-Qasbi" by Dr. Manfred Lindner at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of abstract art by Amer Fakhri at Instituto Cervantes (Spanish Cultural Centre) (Tel. 610858).

Exhibition of abstract art by Ali Al Mi'mar at the Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Uthaina (Tel. 826932).

Exhibition of watercolours by Vladimir Tamari at Darat Al Fumun, Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 643251/2).

Oriental pieces exhibition at Gallery Mariam (Tel. 824425).

Ceramics exhibition by Hameed Abdul Majed at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Two exhibitions of abstract art by Ramzi Al Sayid and Mohammad Salim at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Photography exhibition at the University of Jordan.

Fourth Amman International Book Exhibition at the International Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 650601).

## Morocco will normalise trade relations with Israel only after Jordan, Syria and Palestinians — visiting official

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The opening of an Israeli liaison bureau in Rabat and a Moroccan bureau in Tel Aviv does not mean Morocco is prepared to normalise trade relations with the Jewish state, said Edris Hatto, Moroccan minister of trade and industry.

Morocco, he said, is ready for normalisation with Israel but will only follow suit after Jordan, Syria and the Palestinians. "We are pushing for that,"

Mr. Hatto added. "The liaison bureau is a step towards an embassy, and a preparation for peace, but Morocco will not take any step that would weaken peace in the region."

Mr. Hatto's comments follow visits to Jordan and Iraq this week that sought to strengthen trade relations with both countries and promote the coming Casablanca economic summit.

A lasting peace, he said, includes the movement of goods and people across borders, as well as a solution for Iraq and neighbouring countries.

"We could see tremendous development in this region," Mr. Hatto said, "but we must find a solution to Iraq."

Morocco is committed to these ends, and will pursue them by strengthening relations with other Arab countries, he said.

The Casablanca summit, scheduled to convene at the end of the month, will further these goals by initiating discussions on an economic strategy for the region, and bringing together for the first time public and private entities to promote regional development.

Mr. Hatto's visit to Jordan resulted in the signing of a new Jordanian-Moroccan trade agreement which he hopes will encourage increased trade.

"Quite frankly," he said, "our level of trade is an

embarrassing for me, considering King Hassan's friendly relations with the Kingdom."

The volume of trade for both countries in past years has been insignificant. Morocco's volume of trade with Jordan in 1993 was a scant \$6 million, while Jordan's volume of trade with Morocco for the first half of 1994 only amounted to JD 500,000.

"We can increase our trade with this country 10 to 100 per cent," he said.









The first pictures from the video tape taken from the underwater cameras of the sunken ferry Estonia are released showing the broken fasteners of the exterior bow door, now at

## Estonia disaster probe pinpoints door fault

TURKU, Finland (AP) — Eerie images of a gaping doorway in the sunken ferry Estonia have led shipping lines to order bow doors welded shut on all their ferries to prevent a similar tragedy.

The 60-tonne (54-metric tonne) front cargo door of the ferry Estonia was ripped off after its locks failed during a storm last Wednesday while it was crossing the Baltic Sea, investigators said.

The ferry sank quickly and the crew probably was helpless to save the more than 900 people who died, according to a preliminary conclusion based on images sent up from the wreck by high-tech undersea robots.

"There's really nothing the crew could've done," said Tuomo Karppinen, a member of the investigatory commission. "It would've been too late."

Video clips of twisted metal hinges, broken deck windows, unused lifeboats and even wailing newspapers flickered on a TV screen as investigators described their findings from the wreck lying

some 70 metres below the Baltic Sea's surface. The preliminary results were explosive for Northern Europeans, who rely on cheap, reliable ferry transport.

Within minutes of the announcement, several major Scandinavian shipping companies, including the Estonia's owner Estline, said they would permanently seal the front doors of other ferries to prevent a repeat of the tragedy.

Loading and discharging of vehicles and cargo will take place through stern or side doors, a cumbersome process that companies have resisted until now.

Experts already have called into question the design of the Estonia and similar ferries that use large, movable doors near the waterline to let vehicles in and out.

While drastic, the decision to permanently seal the front doors of other ships may be the only way the ferries can be reassured and keep travellers stunned by the sinking.

the centre of controversy. The Estonia sank with a loss of some 900 lives. The investigation is now centering on the bow door (AFP photo)

In an event that will only add urgency, an Estline cargo ship ran aground Monday in Sweden's archipelago. Nobody was injured.

The nine-member commission investigating the tragedy still must determine why the locking devices on the Estonia's front cargo door failed. Mr. Karppinen speculated there was a problem before the ship sailed from Tallinn harbour into the storm.

Swedish police launched a criminal investigation Monday looking for possible negligence, the Swedish News agency (TT) reported.

The preliminary conclusions confirmed reports by survivors and speculation by experts that the front door — a visor with hinges at the top — had leaked or broken off from the ship.

"The bow visor has become detached from the vessel as a result of the failure of the bow visor locking devices. Part of its rubber remained in place, but part is missing," the commission said in a statement.

Some survivors have reported hearing loud crashes shortly before the sinking.

Chief mechanic Margus Treu said he felt two or three unusually powerful booms, then saw leaks in the bow.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Karppinen surmised that during the storm, "the bow door opened, swung up and then banged down hard, this may have happened several times and the breaking of the locking devices would have made the banging sound."

The videotape, recorded from images sent up by the two Sea Owl robots, also showed a gap in the bow's inner door, which doubles as a ramp that is lowered to let in vehicles.

"The water inflow through the partly dislodged forward ramp had been of sufficient magnitude to result in a lack of stability and the capsizing of the ferry," the commission said.

With the robot cameras, investigators were unable to find the outer door near the wreck, raising the possibility that it is embedded in the mud beneath the ferry.

## Flights remain suspended as Serbs call the shots on Sarajevo airport

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Aid flights to Sarajevo remained suspended Tuesday amid reports the Serbs were demanding the right to lease the airport to U.N. forces, putting pressure on dwindling food stocks in the capital.

Two UNHCR food convoys remained blocked for inspection at a Serb checkpoint on their way to the besieged Muslim enclave of Gorazde, having been stopped Monday in breach of an agreement Saturday to allow U.N. convoys free passage.

The 17 trucks carrying 180 tonnes of food were stopped at Dobrun, 40 kilometres from the eastern enclave, where the Serb convoy had been causing mounting concern among aid workers about food supplies.

"We are monitoring it very closely because they still have to pass the checkpoint," said Kris Kanowski, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) here.

But he warned the airport's continued closure could spark a food crisis in the capital Sarajevo in a week's time, and force the UNHCR to set up a seven-day-a-week food trucking operation.

Meanwhile sources here said the Serbs want to tear up an existing agreement with the United Nations on the airport, transfer ownership of the airstrip to the Serbs while offering a lease-back arrangement to the U.N. Protection Force.

"The Serbs want to renegotiate the entire airport agreement, and even want to rent the airport to the U.N. even for a nominal amount, to emphasise that it's theirs," a source who asked not to be identified told AFP.

U.N. civil affairs coordinator Viktor Andrejev held talks Monday with the Serb leadership in their Pale headquarters but failed to reach agreement on reopening the airport, closed now for 11 days.

All relief aid flights were cancelled Sept. 23 after two planes were hit by small arms



A woman and her son beg for whatever they can get in Sarajevo as they sit, next to their provisions of bread, water, and grapes. There have been no shipments of humanitarian

supplies for more than one week, as convoys continue to be held up at Serb checkpoints (AFP photo)

fire on take-off, and a Serb threat to aircraft using the airport two days later effectively shut the airport as punishment for a NATO airstrike.

The Serbs have accused the U.N. force of acting like a "transportation company for the Muslims," since they handed the airport over to UNPROFOR in June 1992, the source said.

U.N. officials have refused to comment on the airport issue while negotiations are on-going, but have made optimistic noises concerning the airport's reopening, talking in terms of days rather than weeks.

Mr. Janowski said the UNHCR would have to consider boosting overland convoys to Sarajevo if the airport remained closed much longer, adding the organisation had food stocks for another week.

"If the opening of the airport does not materialise we will have to step up overland convoys," he said. "We would have to have large convoys every day of 200 tonnes for seven days a week to be able to make up for the

airlift," he added. A road convoy with 180 tonnes of food was due in Sarajevo Wednesday from the southern Croatian warehouse at Metkovic, he said. Three others were due here Tuesday en route to Gorazde with another 180 tonnes of food.

Aid workers in the enclave warned last week the food situation could become difficult unless supplies arrived within 10 days. A resumption of food aid drops over the area had been considered as a stop-gap measure.

U.N. Protection Force senior spokesman Lt-Colonel Tim Spicer said "strong protests" were made to Serb leaders Monday over continued hold ups to aid convoys despite Saturday's free passage accord.

Some 29 UNPROFOR and UNHCR convoys had been cleared to transit Serb-held territory Tuesday, he said.

Later UNPROFOR spokesman Major Koos Sol said clearance had been asked for 27 UNPROFOR convoys to move Tuesday but only two had been granted,

further undermining the credibility of Saturday's free passage accord.

Colonel Philippe Coiffet, deputy chief of staff to the U.N. Bosnia Command, protested the rejection of the transit clearances in an early morning telephone call to Bosnian Serb commander General Ratko Mladic, said the spokesman.

UNPROFOR was still waiting for a copy of Mr. Mladic's written order to be faxed to the U.N. convoy operations room in Sarajevo at 2:00 p.m. (1300 GMT), said Maj. Sol.

When it arrives the order will be given to convoy commanders for use at Serb checkpoints, he said, adding that the continued problems were "very disappointing." Col. Spicer said that "at this stage we feel it is still an internal communications problem rather than deliberately saying one thing and doing another."

UNPROFOR was "still optimistic that we'll get the convoys moving, get the airport open and get things back to an even keel," he said.

## U.S., China at odds over human rights

WASHINGTON (AP) — China and the United States forged a common front against North Korea's suspected nuclear-weapons programme Monday but remained at odds over Beijing's human rights record.

In an hour-long Oval Office meeting, President Bill Clinton told Foreign Minister Qian Qichen he was disappointed with China's performance on human rights, White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said.

Despite a longstanding invitation and Beijing's hopes for better relations, the White House said Mr. Clinton has no plans to visit China. "That is not an active issue at this point," a White House official said.

Mr. Qian is a major power in the Chinese hierarchy and also carries the title of vice

premier. The White House meeting was the highest U.S.-Chinese contact since Mr. Clinton, in a major policy reversal, announced on May 28 he was granting trade benefits to China without regard to its human rights conduct.

In that decision, Mr. Clinton was pressured to separate the two issues by American business leaders fearing the loss of billions of dollars worth of economic ties.

"President Clinton and Vice Premier Qian agreed that the overall relationship had been considerably strengthened over the past year and that significant progress had been achieved in some areas," Ms. Myers said.

"At the same time," she added, "the president expressed disappointment that more progress has not been

achieved in other issues, particularly human rights."

State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said "there has been a good deal of very patient diplomacy" with China on human rights and other subjects. But he said there were no breakthroughs.

On another sensitive issue, Mr. Qian denied that China was selling missile technology to Pakistan in violation of an international accord. However, the United States rejected his claim and said China still was violating the agreement.

China and the United States said they agreed on efforts to persuade North Korea to curb its nuclear programme.

"We have congruent positions with respect to North Korea," Secretary of State Warren Christopher said af-

ter a State Department meeting with Mr. Qian.

North Korea's neighbours, including China, Japan and South Korea, are believed to be at least as anxious as the United States to gain North Korea's cooperation. China's role is vital also because it has veto power in the U.N. Security Council and can approve or block economic or other actions against Pyongyang.

U.S. negotiations with North Korea have been deadlocked by Washington's demands for international access to all sensitive North Korean facilities, reliable information on the disposition of spent fuel and replacement of an experimental reactor.

Chief negotiator Robert Gallucci will resume the discussions in Geneva Wednesday, administration officials said.

## Exiled Rwandans seek power-sharing with Kigali

KIGALI (AFP) — Members of Rwanda's former government exiled in Zaire since they were ousted by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) want to share power with the new authorities installed in the capital Kigali, a U.N. official said Tuesday.

General Henry Anyidoho, deputy commander of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), said the former ministers and officials "want to have a say" in the running of the central African country, emerging from three months of ethnic carnage.

Gen. Anyidoho had just returned from a trip to Zaire, where he met the commander of the former Rwandan government army, General Augustin Bizimungu, as part of a bid to solve the serious problems facing more than 800,000 refugees in camps there.

Gen. Bizimungu had called for a "power-sharing deal" among members of the Hutu majority regime of the late President Juvenal Habyarimana, whose death in a suspicious April 6 plane crash triggered the bloodletting, and the government installed in July by the Tutsi-led RPF.

Gen. Anyidoho heads the U.N. team in a working group also including 10 members of the Zairean government, which is due in principle to come up with proposals to solve the refugee problem within a week.

Deputy minister escapes attack

A motorcycle shot five times Tuesday at a car carrying a Rwandan deputy minister responsible for the rebelious Caucasus region, but he escaped the attack unhurt, a ministry spokesman said.

Spokesman Sergei Butin said the shooting against Deputy Minister for Nationalities and Regional Politics Kim Tsagolov might have been ordered by Chechenyan leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, whose forces in the rebel republic are battling pro-Russian opposition groups funded by Moscow.

"I am not ruling out that this incident might be linked to recent warning from Mr. Dudayev threatening to resort to terrorist attacks," the spokesman said.

He said the assailant opened fire with a pistol early Tuesday as he passed the vice-minister's car on the Rublov Roadway west of Moscow but hit neither Mr. Tsagolov, a general and native of the Caucasus region, nor his driver. The attack occurred in a residential district where many government officials live.



A Japanese soldier puts up barbed wire at Goma airport as residents look on. Japanese troops flew into the troubled Zairean border

town of Goma on the first mission under their own command since the end of World War II (AFP photo)

For the RPF, whose coalition government includes moderate Hutus, Gen. Bizimungu is one of the prime suspects to be brought to trial for the genocide by troops and extremist militiamen of around a million minority Tutsis and opposition Hutus after Mr. Habyarimana was killed.

Gen. Anyidoho said Gen. Bizimungu had denied charges that former government troops were attacking and intimidating the refugees to prevent them from returning to Rwanda and to retain a power-base and source of food supplies.

According to humanitarian agencies at work in the camps, such pressure by the

soldiers and Hutu militiamen is the main reason for the refusal by refugees to return to their homes, as well as fear of the RPF and reports of reprisal massacres for the genocide.

Gen. Bizimungu's call for a power-sharing deal was based on the accord signed in August last year in Arusha, Tanzania, among Mr. Habyarimana's party, opposition movement and the RPF, which began its insurrection in 1990, Gen. Anyidoho said, providing for a government of national unity.

The RPF has set up such a government, but totally excluded members of the late president's party, who put up hardline opposition to the

deal. Gen. Anyidoho said "almost all" the refugees he spoke to in Zaire had told him they were "ready to come back home," but had been frightened by reports from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which has accused RPF troops of slaughtering returning refugees.

The government has categorically rejected these allegations, which have not been confirmed by UNAMIR or by any relief agency working inside Rwanda. The U.N. mission has several times distanced itself from the UNHCR report blaming the authorities here for massacres.

Meanwhile a panel of experts named to decipher the minds and hearts of France's frustrated youths Monday unveiled a programme that includes everything from reducing military service to creating anonymous health centres for minors.

The 57-point list of proposals is the second phase of a unique but contested effort by Premier Balladur to improve the lot of the nation's young folks.

## Communists could join government — Yeltsin

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin said Tuesday he could allow Communist Party members into the Russian government in an expected reshuffle, but said key ministers would stay in place and reforms would continue.

"If someone professional, independent of their party affiliation, is brought into the government I see nothing bad in this," Mr. Yeltsin told reporters in response to a question on whether Communists would be let into the government.

"It is good for the country, good for stability," Mr. Yeltsin told a packed news conference at the Kremlin, held in the first anniversary of the armed revolt that shook Moscow and ended with tanks shelling the parliament.

Such a move would mark the first return of active Communist Party members to posts within the executive since the autumn of 1991, in the wake of the aborted Soviet coup when most officials who had not already done so quit the party.

Rumours of an imminent government shakeup have been building within Russian political circles and in the media for more than a week, and Mr. Yeltsin said Tuesday that a reshuffle of one or two ministers was a "natural process."

The Russian leader, who appeared in good health and who spoke for just over an

hour, denied however that a government shakeup would involve any key ministers and said any change to the path of reforms was "totally ruled out."

"On the contrary, it is a question of strengthening the course of reforms. There will be no changes involving key figures within the government," Mr. Yeltsin stated.

"We are going to act more energetically than we have up to now. There are now clear indications of economic stability," the 63-year-old Russian president said.

Mr. Yeltsin's remarks on the composition of the government came as sources close to the parliament said deputies were planning to organise a vote of no-confidence in Mr. Yeltsin during the autumn session, which opens Wednesday.

The legislature is dominated by a loose alliance between the Russian Communist Party and the ultranationalist Liberal Democratic Party. Both groups have made clear their plans to renew an offensive on Mr. Yeltsin and the government.

While there are presently no standing members of the Communist Party in the government, most top officials — including Mr. Yeltsin — made their careers in the ranks of the former Soviet Communist Party.

Mr. Yeltsin quit the party on July 12, 1990 in a dramatic

announcement made at the 28th congress of the Soviet Party and afterwards treated Communists with disdain, prior to their legislative electoral gains last December.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin met last week with Gennady Zyuganov, head of the Communist Party, and there were reports — denied by Mr. Zyuganov — that the premier had offered at least one cabinet post to a Communist Party member.

In other remarks, Mr. Yeltsin praised the Russian people, as well as foreign government leaders and journalists, for averting civil war during the violent upheavals last September and October.

"The second Russian revolution did not happen. The 'red wheel' which was not halted in 1917 was stopped this time. We escaped the most serious danger — civil war," the Russian leader said.

His remarks came two days after 20,000 anti-government protesters turned out at the "White House" — the former parliament building — to protest against Mr. Yeltsin and the government's handling of the crisis last year.

According to government figures, some 140 people died in the fighting in Moscow, but opposition leaders put the figure at above 500 and have called for an independent investigation of the October events.



## Jordan Times

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## Recycling — the need to start

**SURELY OUR** authorities, especially those concerned with the protection of environment and the eco-system in the country, have heard of recycling. If they have indeed developed a silent interest in encouraging recycling of paper, tin cans and glass bottles, the public has certainly not heard of it yet. At the present rate, the economic costs of not putting into effect an aggressive recycling policy are very high to say the least. The costs to the national environment could even be higher. The concerned ministries are therefore encouraged to articulate a comprehensive plan for the Kingdom by first disseminating relevant information to the public and spearheading a campaign for that purpose as a matter of high priority.

One immediate way to go about this challenge is to emulate what other nations have done in this domain. Placing big depository areas near supermarkets, housing units and other public places would certainly persuade the people to dump their empty bottles and used newspapers in certain compartments designated for each item. Safeway and Al Ahlia Abela supermarkets can assume a leadership role in this direction by taking the initiative in providing such dumping compartments. Others would follow suit in due course and before we know it the entire city would be serviced by hundreds of such depository places. Another way to accomplish this goal is to legislate laws for this purpose at the municipal level. Jordanian mayors, of Amman and other cities and towns, have the authority and mandate to enact appropriate bye-laws for this purpose.

Such rules and regulations would also help to clean up the country by placing wasted products at suitable places for collection and recycling. We can expect our local authorities to sell these recycled products in order to cover the costs of their collection. In the final analysis, our local industries stand to make considerable saving from this. Likewise our national economy stands also to gain by saving on hard currency that would otherwise leave the country to import paper, glass or tin.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

BY ENDING their boycott of foreign firms that deal with Israel, the Gulf states have offered the Israelis a major advantage and excellent service since foreign firms would now rush to the Jewish state to invest in economic and industrial sectors there, said Fahed Fakel, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. The Arab boycott had been instrumental in preventing foreign firms from investing in Israel for fear of losing the Arab markets, especially those in the Gulf area, but now the door is open for Israel to benefit from foreign investment, he said. It is to be noted that the Gulf states took the decision of ending the boycott following their meeting in New York with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who can now boast to have made a major political achievement in service of Israel and American companies, he said. Furthermore, the Gulf states, notwithstanding Israel's continued occupation of Arab lands, have expressed intention to deal with Israel directly once they get the green light from any Arab country now involved in peace talks with Israel, he pointed out. Thus the Arab League resolutions have been violated openly by the action of the Gulf states which have let down the confrontation states particularly their Syrian ally, weakening its negotiating position with the Jewish state, he concluded.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour expressed regret that while relations remain strained among Arab states, certain Arab governments tend to remove barriers with Israel which continues to occupy Arab lands. Taher Adwan hoped that Tunisia and Morocco had announced their intention of opening liaison offices in Israel while the Gulf states had decided to end their boycott of firms that deal with Jewish state. As long as the Arab states are embarking on a new Middle East order in which its various states maintain close cooperation politically, economically and culturally it is more reasonable to demand that the Arab countries remove barriers separating their Arab people before normalising their relations with the Jewish state, said the writer. He called for a new outlook and new strategy to cater to the needs of the new era in regional relations. He said that the Arab states, which are demonstrating their desire to accommodate Israel as a partner, should pave the ground first by ending inter-Arab differences so that the future relations can be based on solid ground.

## Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

# November elections hold out promises of significant changes in Washington

WITH VOTER negativity and cynicism at an all-time high, President Clinton and incumbent senators and congressmen may face real trouble in the November elections. The anti-incumbent/independent protest spirit that fueled the political challenges of Ross Perot, Pat Buchanan and Gerry Brown in 1992 is still alive and breathing fire two years later — and it will have a definite impact on the fall campaigns.

While no one expects the same level of changes that came in 1992 (when the incumbent president was defeated, and 25 per cent of the House and one-third of the contested Senate races produced new winners), there will still be significant change in November.

And, of course, since the majority of the incumbents running for reelection are Democrats, they will incur the biggest losses. The only real debate is how big the Republican gains will be. Republicans, sensing a deep anti-Clinton mood in much of the country, are aiming for seven Democratic losses in the Senate and 30 in the House. That would gain them virtual control of Congress for the first time since the Reagan sweep of 1980. Democrats, on the other hand, are hoping to limit their losses to three Senate seats and between 15 and 18 House seats — the normal rate of loss in a mid-term election.

Many independent analysts agree with the Republican assessment, especially with regard to the effect that Mr. Clinton's low ratings will have on his fellow Democrats this November. But such an assessment may be confusing cause and effect. In fact, the real picture may be bleak for all incumbents, Democrats (including the president) and Republicans alike, because of voter anger over policies as usual and with all officials in Washington. A recent poll shows voter disapproval of Congress at 63 per cent — 15 points lower than the president's rating. And almost 80 per cent of the electorate believe it's time to elect new people to Congress, a strong display of voter anger with elected officials. In fact, those candidates who seem to be faring the best are those who are running as anti-establishment outsiders.

All of this does add up to real trouble for the president. He began his term by winning in 1992 with a low 43 per cent of the vote. By forcing a national agenda of controversial issues, he demanded that Congress and the nation tackle problems which long been ignored: The deficit, health care reform, anti-crime measures and campaign finance reform. What impeded his path to success was not only the difficult choices inherent in each of these issues and the resistance from special interest groups; but also the personal and policy failures of the president himself that have plagued his administration. Continued attention focused on "character issues" and foreign policy misuses have only made the president's task more difficult.

And now facing the likelihood of significant losses in November, the president's problems become even more serious.

Under relentless Republican attack and facing voter backlash, many Democratic Senate and congressional candidates are staying away from the president. In their local campaigns for reelection many are campaigning on the theme that, although they are Democrats, they have opposed the president on some issues. But the picture is not uniformly dark for Mr. Clinton, as a handful of Senate candidates have actually sought out the president's active support in their reelection bids.

Yet overall, the growing distance between the president and his own party's candidates has further weakened his

ability to enact his agenda in Congress. The three major legislative programmes Clinton had hoped to win before November (and cite as accomplishments for himself and his party on the campaign trail) — the passage of the GATT treaty, health care reform and campaign finance reform — all seem doomed. While Republican obstruction is partially to blame, the reluctance of key Democrats to support their president on tough issues is also a factor.

And so the president faces a hostile media, a hostile Republican party and active resistance from elements of his own party — not a pretty picture. But after the November elections, it is apt to become worse.

A survey of the Senate seats up for election shows how serious a potential problem Democrats face this November. There are 35 Senate seats being contested, of which 22 are held by Democrats and 13 by Republicans. Of the 35, eight are open seats with five Democrats and three Republicans having retired.

Of the 35 contested seats this fall, an unprecedented 14 elections may produce defeats for the incumbent party holding the seat. Of these 14 seats, 11 are currently Democratic and only 3 are Republican. Even Senator Ted Kennedy, the senior Democrat from Massachusetts, is facing a tough reelection fight which most recent polls show him losing.

This anti-incumbent mood can also affect Democrats in other races as well. In New York, for example, Governor Mario Cuomo who was once viewed as unbeatable is currently trailing in the polls. So, too, are Democratic stars Ann Richards, the governor of Texas, and Lawton Chiles, governor of Florida, losing in the polls.

Those last two races are especially worthy of note since the Republican challengers in Texas and Florida are none other than two sons of former President George Bush: George W. Bush in Texas and Jeb Bush in Florida. Victories in those two races would, no doubt, be sweet revenge for the Bush family.

And in what could be one of the most striking examples of anti-incumbent backlash, a recent poll showed the Democratic speaker of the House, Tom Foley of Washington, trailing his Republican challenger on the polls by a margin of 54 per cent to 36 per cent. If Foley were to lose, he would be the first speaker of the House (the highest ranking position in Congress) to lose an election in almost 150 years!

One important note, however, is that there are still several weeks before the November elections, and a great deal can still happen. As I have noted in previous columns, Mr. Clinton's poll standings are subject to extreme fluctuations, and it would be premature to assume disaster for Mr. Clinton or his party. Still, the pattern emerging to date — incumbent Democrats running away from the president and the ominous poll numbers many of them are facing — is not promising.

The Clinton administration has been on the ropes before, and they have material to work with now that could help them come back. The administration simply must make a much better case than it has so far of what it has accomplished. An editorial in a major newsweekly noted that "in less than two years, Clinton has already achieved more domestically" than Kennedy, Ford, Carter and Bush combined, and it notes Mr. Clinton's economic plan, NAFTA, the crime bill, the reinventing government reform plan and a number of other bills as significant accomplishments.

But the administration has been unable to get the message of its success — indeed it has found it difficult to say any message — across to the nation. The unemployment rate is down, more jobs were created in the first year of the Clinton administration than in the four years of the Bush administration, the deficit will be smaller in the coming years due to the Clinton deficit-reduction bill, and there was plenty of change to meet the demand of change voters made in the 1992 elections. These are accomplishments that are not in dispute, but the White House can't seem to get them across.

Certainly the national media has done much to tarnish the image of Mr. Clinton and, by association, his party. A study recently issued by the Centre for Media and Public Affairs showed that Mr. Clinton has received consistently negative coverage during his first eighteen months in office. The analysis of over 4,000 evening news stories found that 62 per cent were negative and only 38 per cent were positive, compared to a 51 per cent negative 49 per cent positive for Bush during his first eighteen months in office. And there were more stories on Mr. Clinton per night in this period under study (8.2), almost double the number of stories on the Bush administration during a similar period. Even 65 per cent of the comments the networks chose to use from Democrats were negative.

But despite these handicaps in Washington, Democrats will still attempt to change the centre of the debate from anti-Clinton attacks to what Republicans and their obstructionism have done to the U.S. Preliminary polls have indicated that this may be fertile ground for Democratic campaigns.

More importantly, one should not forget the truism of former Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill: "All politics is local." In every instance, what is going on at the level of the campaign has a stronger influence than any national trend. So don't count out such long-term incumbents and leaders as Ted Kennedy, Mario Cuomo, Ann Richards or Tom Foley. These are politicians who know the terrain in their states and districts, and are tough campaigners who not only know what it takes to win, but have proven they can do it.

A related point is that because Congress has been in session for the past few months, national attacks on Democrats have run in local papers but Democratic congressmen and senators were not on the scene to respond — but they soon will be. Republican challengers who were alone in the district will be joined by the Democratic incumbent they are opposing, and the Republicans will no longer have the luxury of making one-sided attacks. Democrats will respond with negative attacks of their own to expose the challengers' vulnerabilities. As these attacks weaken the challengers and Democrats take their turn at defining their opponents, the poll numbers will become much more even.

But observers who see this shift in the campaign debate realise that it will have the unintended side-effect of further souring the public mood towards politics and politicians. It has been apparent for some years that while negative campaigning can help win elections, the public cynicism it produces can make governing that much more difficult. So the Democrats may save some seats that they now seem likely to lose, but the needed change in American politics will not come this year.

And whatever the outcome in November, the president's job will be no easier with the new Congress than it was with the last.

## Dismay over Arafat in self-rule regions

Focus on secrecy and control said to hurt nation-building

By Caryle Murphy

GAZA — Nearly three months into Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, Yasser Arafat has become the target of growing criticism over his governing style, which many Palestinians say is jeopardising their chance to build a new state.

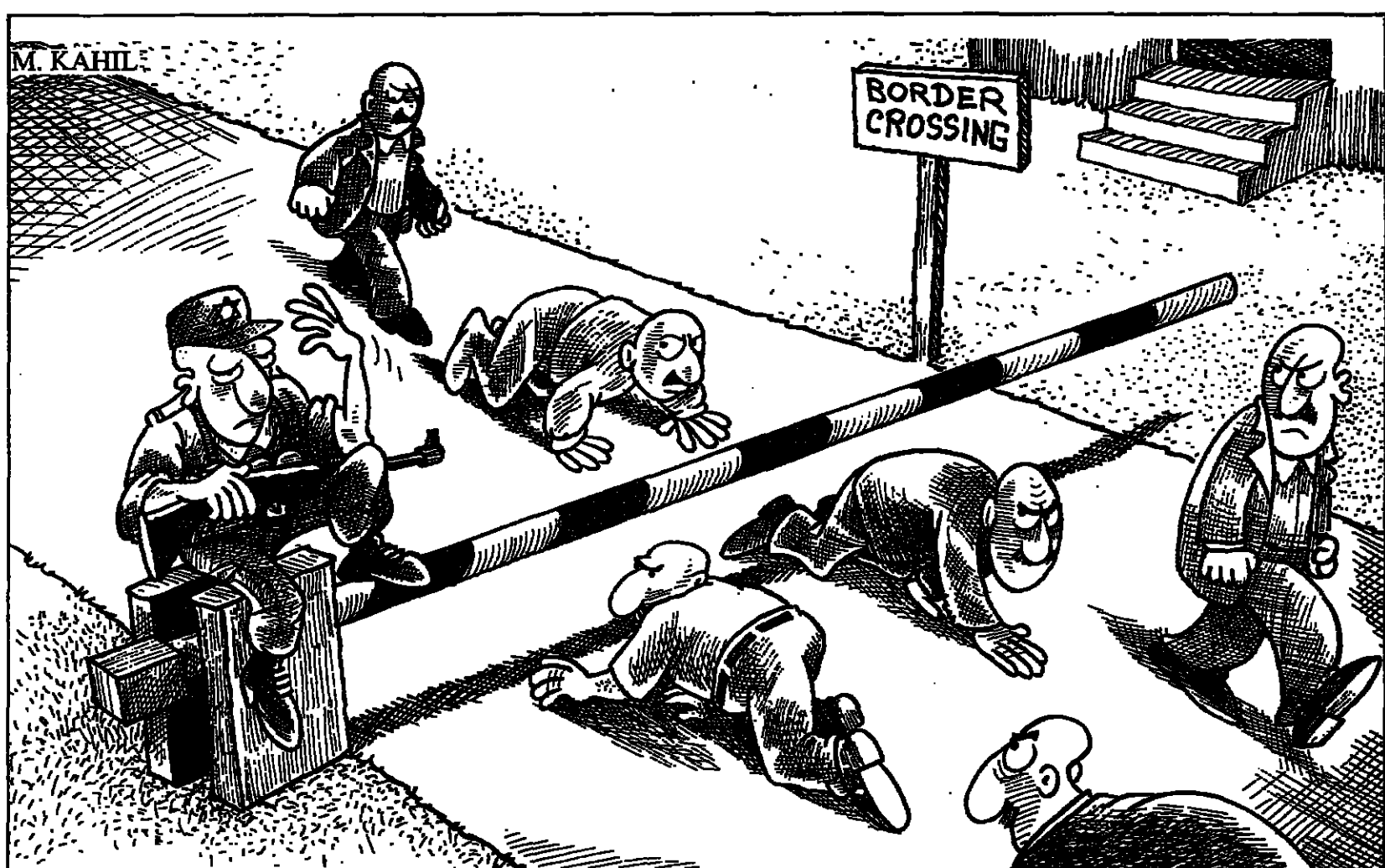
Mr. Arafat's role in delaying the arrival of financial aid, his penchant for secrecy, his obsession with total control and his dependence on multiple security services have generated disillusionment and embarrassment among Palestinians who had hoped, despite the limitations of their self-rule agreement with Israel, to lay the basis for a future.

"The whole world is watching and asking, 'Do we deserve a state?'" said a frustrated Palestinian official here. "The world wants us to do something. We have commitments we have to honour."

"This is a nation born today," he said. "Whatever mistakes we do today are very, very dangerous and can live forever." As chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Mr. Arafat for years carried the torch of Palestinian dreams for independence. But his behaviour in the Gaza Strip, where a limited version of independence finally began in July, has caused open friction with one of his senior economic advisers and made worse an already difficult relationship with Israel, contributing to a slowdown in the carrying out of self-rule, Palestinian sources said.

"The whole political situation is pregnant with trouble," said Iyad Serraj, a psychologist who heads the Gaza Mental Health Centre.

"What we need is a credible, honest leader," he said, adding that the situation suggested that a mili-



ary dictatorship was "what we are heading for." And while middle-class Palestinians grumble about Mr. Arafat's authoritarian ways, the majority of Gaza's 850,000 residents are judging the Palestinian leader on his ability to fill their stomachs.

"The economic situation hasn't gotten better," said Tayseer Abu Hakra, a fishmonger, as he laid out his wares near the beach. "It's even worse."

Since self-rule began, there has been almost no job creation or investment. Civil servants and policemen have taken salary cuts. Overall inflation is running at 18 per cent to 20 per cent.

If the Palestinian Authority in cooperation with the international community is not able to deliver significant improvements in the standard of living in the next six to eight months, it will undermine not only the authority of the self-rule government but also the legitimacy of the peace process, warned Terje Roed Larsen, the newly appointed U.N. special coordinator in the Middle East.

Countries that pledged more than \$2 billion to the Palestinians last fall share responsibility for delays in the arrival of aid. Many of the donor efforts are disorganised and hamstrung by red tape, said a source

familiar with the situation. But Mr. Arafat's failure to set up a credible and independent institution for receiving the money also has played a part. It took six months for the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, which is supposed to be the conduit for aid, to be formed, and its lines of authority and duties are unclear.

Potential investors, who are still waiting for new tax laws to be written and an economic development programme to be developed, also are put off by Mr. Arafat's insistence on personally approving all new projects.

"What concerns me is

there are no tenders, all contracts are signed in secrecy," Mr. Serraj said. "And of course, when everything is completely secret, you suspect corruption."

"What is the truth about Abu Alaa's resignation?" he continued. "Nobody knows. Why should people be in the dark?"

Abu Alaa, or Ahmad Koreih, temporarily resigned as trade and economic minister of the new Palestinian Authority earlier this month to protest Mr. Arafat's handling of economic matters.

Mr. Arafat spread nominal responsibility for economic affairs among three ministers but retained

practical control for himself. He is also criticised by some Palestinians for stacking the government and security systems with loyalists rather than with people of proven competence and refusing to delegate authority.

Asked about these criticisms, Mr. Arafat's spokesman, Nabil Abouridha, said they were untrue. Mr. Arafat "is head of the Palestinian Authority, and he has ministers and they're doing their jobs," he said.

"If you had been here before July, you would see the difference," he said. "People are secure. Everything is OK compared with the occupation days." The Washington Post.

## Prince H

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## Israel ag

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symmetrical... has a larger... Mr. Shalev... the Syrian... divisions in... troops stationed... kilometres... Golan and... Israel had... in the Golan... Israel could... these numbers... or a later... implementing... "Other... greater... point, he told... In his speech... note on the... negotiations... 1991. He said that...



# Jordan always wanted to see Middle East as a region of cultural tolerance and mutual inter-dependence

Following is the full text of the speech delivered by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday:

Mr. President,  
Secretary General,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

IT IS my pleasure, at the outset, to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election and to wish you and the members of the bureau every success in the discharge of your duties. Your election is a mark of the confidence and high regard in which both you and your country are held by the international community. Your wisdom and forbearance will be crucial to the successful outcome of the current session.

I would like to express deep appreciation for the exemplary manner in which your predecessor conducted the work of the assembly during his tenure last year. I also wish to express my gratitude to the secretary-general, Dr. Boutros Ghali, for his tireless efforts to enhance the organisation's ability to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving world.

It is gratifying to observe that the membership of the United Nations now encompasses several recently independent states. We share bonds of religious and cultural affinity with some, we share friendships and mutual respect with all. We hope that the principle of universality, which has always been the cornerstone of the United Nations, will soon encompass the remaining peoples and regions, so that this organisation can truly represent the collective conscience of mankind.

Mr. President:

It is, I believe, fitting to extend heartfelt congratulations to President Nelson Mandela, to Vice-President Frederik de Klerk, and to the people of South Africa. They have together established a new order in their country, one founded on justice and equality. The world rejoices at the return of South Africa to the fold of the international community of nations. The South African people have proved that peace is always possible, so long as all are given the chance to participate in its building. This is a theme that bears consid-

eration.

As we approach a landmark in the history of the United Nations — the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation — it is appropriate to look forward rather than back; to take stock of things to come rather than things past. It is appropriate to consider the shape that our global order is taking.

South Africa offers a new paradigm, a fresh vision for a changing world. It shows us that a new order must have room for everyone. We must be able to listen to all voices: to the weak and powerful alike. A new order must be inclusive, and must actively encourage participation at every level: for in our ever more inter-dependent world, the future of one is the future of all. This, I believe, goes to the very heart of global peace.

We are called upon, then, to articulate a new approach. We must protect the rule of law, but we must go further, and ensure that democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights come to govern the life of nations. We must evolve new procedures of cooperation, communication and accommodation. We must promote social responsibility, national commitment and international obligation. Nations must learn to co-exist with their neighbours, but more than this, they must learn to work willingly together as partners in the enterprise of peace.

Such a transformation is taking place in the Middle East. My region has been synonymous with conflict and war for decades. But now we are breaking the mould. At last we have an historic opportunity to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, and to fashion in its place a new commonwealth of peace, hope and participation for all.

The question of Palestine has been Jordan's main concern. Family ties, geographic contiguity, and shared history and traditions ensure that this is so. Over the years, Jordan has extended support and encouragement to our Palestinian brethren. Our contributions and sacrifices to

the Palestinian cause from 1948 onwards have been widely acknowledged. My country has received successive waves of refugees and returnees, at a huge cost to our economy, imposing an impossible burden on our limited resources. Yet we remain committed to our democratisation process, to the protection of civil liberties and human rights, and to the provision of decent living conditions and services for all our citizens. Underlying this commitment is our belief that broad-based popular involvement in civil society is fundamental to its health. This is why Jordan has been able to weather the ravages of war, to survive the long years of turmoil in our region.

If Jordan has been on the front line of war, so too has it been on the front line of peace. In those well known words of UNSC 242, which my country helped to draft, Jordan has always worked steadfastly for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. We promoted the genesis of the current peace process with the Madrid Conference of 1991. When the Israeli government of the day refused to negotiate with the PLO, Jordan stepped into the breach, helping the Palestinians to assume their proper role by providing an umbrella for their participation.

Now the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, are negotiating directly with Israel. They are installed in Gaza and Jericho, and conduct their affairs as they see fit: their destiny is at last in their own hands. Jordan welcomes these developments, and we will continue to do everything in our power to ensure the success of Palestinian autonomy arrangements.

On the Jordanian-Israeli track, our common agenda has paved the way for us to agree upon modalities in areas such as water, the environment, energy, territory, borders and regional security. These agreements resulted in the meeting on the 25th July 1994, between His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin of Israel, at which they signed the Washington Declaration. This historic document ended the state of war between Jordan and

Israel. I myself have just held constructive talks with President Clinton and Foreign Minister Peres, the goal of which is to build a framework of trilateral development as well as an economic equilibrium in the region, and to maintain the momentum towards peace.

Jordan and Israel are engaged in substantive talks, seeking just and mutually agreeable solutions to the outstanding issues listed in our common agenda. Our aim is to conclude a treaty of peace based on solid grounds that can withstand the winds of change. Such a treaty, we believe, will delineate our rights and duties under conditions of peace. It will open the door to co-operation at the regional level, so that the benefits of peace may be enjoyed by our peoples. It has always been Jordan's vision that the Middle East, cradle of civilisation and birthplace of the three great monotheistic religions, should be a region of cultural tolerance and mutual inter-dependence.

Important as our bilateral talks with Israel may be, we are keenly aware that no two nations stand alone. Our aim remains a comprehensive peace. Many of the issues we are currently addressing defy the confines of bilateralism, and require regional and international participation.

One such issue concerns the spiritual significance of the city of Jerusalem. For believers in the three great monotheistic faiths, Jerusalem must be the ultimate symbol of peace and its glorious manifestation. A final settlement on the political and administrative status of the city, however, will occur in negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis. Any arrangement reached must serve the needs of the millions of followers of Islam, Christianity and Judaism.

The economic dimension of peace is likewise a transnational concern. The economies of the Middle East have been shattered by the conflict. They must be revived if peace is to take root on the ground. Access to more equitable opportunities for economic growth will be vital. International debt relief and write-off strategies should be planned, encompassing im-

proved concessionary terms by the clubs of Paris and London.

But the states of the region must also play their part. Restrictions on trade should be relaxed. We must develop a non-discriminatory approach to sustainable development and economic well-being. We hope that the Middle East-North Africa Economic Summit at Casablanca will build on the achievements of the regional economic development working group, and prove a useful forum to explore the potential partnership between governments, private businesses and international financial institutions. For this partnership surely holds the key to the economic future of the region.

Mr. President:

International change wrought by the end of the cold war has affected the political situation in the Middle East as elsewhere. The transformation of world power politics has been accompanied by a shift in attitude, modifying the cost benefit calculus of regional states. National strategic objectives can no longer be sought at the cost of others in a supposedly "zero sum game." In the context of a regional security regime, the size, role and function of the armed forces in individual states of the region are all likely to undergo radical changes. These will favour peacekeeping functions, allowing scarce resources to be released for development needs.

In this context, Jordan fully supports the five dimensions of world peace and security outlined by the secretary general. I would like to add that Jordan supports the ongoing effort to streamline the U.N. and fully endorse the attempt to increase the number of permanent members on the Security Council. We also support the American proposal that peacekeeping operations be strengthened by additional personnel, more effective field capabilities, greater cooperation between the U.N. and participating countries, and a more united approach to training.

Here again, Jordan is at the forefront of change. Our armed forces serve as

peacekeepers under the U.N. command as far afield as Georgia, Angola and the former Yugoslavia. We value the opportunity to take part in these missions, for in a very real sense, they allow us to participate in the unfolding world order. Jordan is proud to be involved in shaping global security arrangements.

As the peace process develops, it will be necessary to promote a common regional identity and a shared regional vision. All the Middle East must contribute to the articulation of this vision. The key, again, is participation. If the countries and peoples of the region have a say in shaping its future, they will have a stake in its success. And success will accordingly be all the more likely; for the diversity of our region is a positive asset that we must learn to use creatively. We will inevitably differ on certain issues, just as we will agree on others. But we must be able to discuss our views in the knowledge that they will be heard. For honest communication is the basis of genuine involvement in any joint enterprise.

In this spirit, Jordan feels honour-bound to register its concern over threats to the process of global reconciliation. Inertia must not be allowed to dominate the conduct of world affairs. Deep-seated conflicts will not disappear by themselves. We urge the international community to take swift action to facilitate their resolution.

One glaring example is the ongoing situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The appalling practices of "ethnic cleansing" and genocide continue even as we speak. My country abhors these atrocities. Jordan supports all the international community's efforts to end this tragic and wasteful conflict; and we have taken positive steps to alleviate the hardship it has caused. Jordan has joined the Non-Aligned Movement's task force in Bosnia. Our soldiers, who form the second largest contingent of the United Nations peacekeeping effort in the Balkans, are engaged in both humanitarian relief and peacekeeping duties. Jordan has supported the

Vienna and Washington agreements to establish a federation between the Muslims and Croats of Bosnia, and has welcomed the peace plan advanced by the contact group supported by the G-7 summit in Naples. The Serbian challenge to the plan, in the face of Muslim and Croat acceptance, is cause for deep disappointment.

Turning now to the situation in the Gulf, the importance of stability and security cannot be overstated. International norms must be observed; the territorial integrity of all states must be preserved. Their sovereignty and political independence must be upheld on the basis of non-interference in their internal affairs. My country also wishes to reiterate its serious concern for the plight of the people of Iraq, where living conditions are deteriorating rapidly. We intend to do our utmost to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people, so far as is consistent with the provisions of United Nations resolutions.

Mr. President:

The distorted image of Islam remains a cause of grave concern. The attention of this body should be turned to the spreading of Islamophobia. This phenomenon occurs in all manner of ways, from the purely verbal to the bluntly physical. Its proponents deal in inflammatory rhetoric. They preach the inevitability of cultural apocalypse, tarring all Muslims with the brush of fanatical extremism. They ignore the fact that Islam is a broad and adaptable institution. One billion Muslims now live on this earth. As such, Islam encompasses all shades of political opinion, different patterns of theological thought, and countless varieties of human experience.

Jordan urges member states to join forces in bringing about a better understanding of Islam as a religion, a culture and a civilisation. The expression of anti-Muslim sentiment, and other manifestations of Islamophobia, should be monitored and combated by educational campaigns, cultural exchanges and similar endeavours. We have always advocated an inter-faith dialogue as the surest way to combat bigot-

ry and stereotyping.

Mr. President:

More than a decade ago, I stood before this assembly and called for, on behalf of my country, a new international humanitarian order. That led to the establishment of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues. The commission was charged with investigating a wide range of pressing humanitarian issues. It performed its duties well, producing a series of reports that made clear the scale of the impending global humanitarian disaster.

It would be comforting to stand before this assembly today and tell you that its work has made a significant difference. It would be comforting, but it would not be true. A new international humanitarian order has not come into being. The powerless remain powerless. The dispossessed have not recovered their birthrights. There are more refugees, more street children, more innocent victims of conflict than ever before. What is worse, these issues are still addressed in a piecemeal fashion. It is often said that one should not try to treat a mass of symptoms, but to seek out root causes. Remarkably, it sometimes seems that far from seeking causes, we are doing our best to ignore the symptoms.

Today, I have tried to address causes. I have spoken of the fundamental need for participation at all levels. I have put before you a vision for a global order characterised by partnership and communication, tolerance and trust. In some places this vision is on the road to realisation; in others, it has seldom been further. The alternatives are clear, and the choice is ours.

Mr. President,  
Secretary General,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I pledge my country's full support to this organisation. For as we move towards the 21st century, and as the organisation moves towards its 50th anniversary, the ideal that inspired the Charter of the United Nations have never been more important.

Thank You.

## Prince Hassan outlines steps

(Continued from page 1)

to call at other departments for further procedures.

6— The Department for Encouraging Investments should be supplied with sufficient computers plus expertise to handle them from the Royal Scientific Society.

7. Sufficient funds should be allocated to help carry out these procedures.

B. Handling problems that face investors in the industrial cities of Jordan. The approach should include:

1. Supplying the Sahab Industrial City with sufficient water supplies and this can take place through laying a direct pipeline to the city from Al Qasat springs, some 35 kilometres south of Amman and a JD 1.2 million budget should be found for this project.

2— each factory should pay for water consumption

through arrangements with the Water Authority of Jordan.

III. Providing telephone service.

A. The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) should be able to make available 65 telephone lines immediately for the benefit of the Sahab Industrial City and 100 more in two months.

2. The TCC should charge the normal fee for installing the telephones and not triple the amount.

C. The Zarqa Industrial City.

Since the Sahab Industrial City is not capable of accommodating more factories, part of the land used by the Zarqa Free Zone — estimated to be 300 dunums — could be used for a new industrial city which should be provided with all infrastructure services.

## 'Jerusalem vote' snags talks

(Continued from page 1)

Monday Israel declined to set a date for the poll, which was originally scheduled for July, and refused to discuss an army redeployment on the West Bank which the Palestinians say must take place before the elections.

Dr. Erakat insisted: "It is very clear that the election will take place after the Israelis will have completed the redeployment of their forces outside our populated areas."

Israel and PLO were also to discuss the powers of the autonomy council before talks end Wednesday. The Palestinians want a 100-member body while the Israelis want to restrict it to 24.

Dr. Erakat said the declaration of principles "specified very clearly" a council with both executive and leg-

islative powers, though the Israelis had "not yet" agreed to a law-making role.

"We hope we will be able to achieve this goal if we want the election to be held before the end of this year," he added.

Dr. Erakat also denied press reports that Palestinians who opposed the Israeli-PLO autonomy deal would be prevented from taking part in elections.

The elections constitute the nucleus and the heart of the declaration of principles," he said, adding that all Palestinians had the right to take part.

As Israel and the PLO began negotiations on the elections in Cairo, a senior Hamas figure told AFP the fundamentalists wanted powers far exceeding those sought by Mr. Arafat.

to hang on to power.

"One does not make such a dangerous move just for the sake of four more years of political power," Mr. Sharon charged.

Mr. Rabin swore in parliament that Israel would not give up a centimetre on the Golan Heights without total peace with Syria.

But he added: "We have decided to give peace a chance with Syria."

"There is a chance of making peace with Syria which is the key to overall peace. What should we do? Not try? Reject everything all together?" he asked.

The premier renewed a promise to hold a referendum on a peace treaty.

Likud opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu, speaking after Mr. Rabin, accused the government of abandoning Zionism. Likud opposes any withdrawal from occupied lands.

## Jordan reaffirms commitment

(Continued from page 1)

man rights come to govern the life of nations," said the Crown Prince, adding that Jordan's firm adherence to the democratisation process, to the protection of civil liberties and human rights and underlying "broad-based popular involvement in civil society" had enabled the Kingdom to survive severe crises and challenges.

Welcoming the launch of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho and noting that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was conducting the Palestinian affairs as it sees fit, the Crown Prince said: "Jordan welcomes these developments and we will continue to do everything in our power to ensure the success of Palestinian autonomy arrangements."

The Crown Prince referred to the progress made in the Jordanian-Israeli track of negotiations and said the aim was to "conclude a treaty of peace based on solid grounds that can withstand the winds of change."

"It has always been Jordan's vision that the Middle East, cradle of civilisation and birthplace of the three great monotheistic religions, should be a region of cultural tolerance and mutual inter-dependence," he said to do everything in our power to ensure the success of Palestinian autonomy arrangements."

The Crown Prince expressed concern over the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. "The appalling practices of 'ethnic cleansing' and genocide continue even as we speak," he said. "My country abhors these atrocities. Jordan supports all the international community's efforts to end this tragic and wasteful conflict, and we have taken positive steps to alleviate the hardship it has caused."

The Crown Prince said, "many of the issues we are currently addressing defy the confines of bilateralism and require regional and international participation."

"The economic dimension

of peace is likewise a transnational concern," he said. The economies of the Middle East have been shattered by the conflict. They must be revived if peace is to take root on the ground. Access to more equitable opportunities for economic growth will be vital. International debt relief and write-off strategies should be planned, encompassing improved concessionary terms by the clubs of Paris and London.

"But the states of the region must also play their part. Restrictions on trade should be relaxed. We must develop a non-discriminatory approach to sustainable development and economic well-being. We hope that the Middle East-North Africa Economic Summit at Casablanca will build on the achievements of the Regional Economic Development Working Group, and prove a useful forum to explore the potential partnership between governments, private businesses and international financial institutions. For this partnership surely holds the key to the economic future of the region," the Crown Prince said.

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The Crown Prince said, "many of the issues we are currently addressing defy the confines of bilateralism and require regional and international participation."

## White House meeting positive

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli-Jordanian team would be formed to take the long-term plans to the World Bank.

After the meeting, Mr. Clinton announced a series of ventures which included an agreement on the "basic principles" on environment, water, energy and tourism issues and convening a conference to explore a Dead Sea-Red Sea canal project.

The two also agreed to open a border crossing in the north for foreign travellers.

As the pace of Mideast peacemaking picked up, Secretary of State Warren Christopher made plans for more shuttle diplomacy on the Syrian front.

Mr. Christopher will go to Israel Oct. 9 to begin his fifth attempt since May to hurry a peace agreement with Syria. While in the area, he will open the new border crossing between Israel and Jordan on Oct. 15.

graphed.

Born in a poor neighbourhood in the Gonaives 150 kilometres northwest of the Haitian capital, he graduated from the country's military academy and joined the presidential guard.

Like Gen. Biamby, he trained at the U.S. bases of Fort Lackland in Texas and Fort Benning in Georgia.

Gen. Francois was believed to be one of the most active officers during the coup that overthrew Mr. Aristide and was named head of the metropolitan Port-au-Prince military department a day after the junta took power.

Mr. Aristide's supporters have accused him of directing the slayings of thousands of opponents of the regime but he defended his actions as necessary to combat "subversion."

Gen. Francois has also fiercely denied U.S. accusations that he was involved in drug trafficking. He challenged "anyone to come up with the least proof" of his ties to narcotics smugglers.

Gen. Francois fled Port-au-Prince at 9:30 p.m. (0130 GMT Tuesday), sneaking

past the Haitian border post, said spokesman Schragar.

After being delayed several hours, he crossed the border at Mal Paso about 10:30 A.M. (1430 GMT) enroute to the capital of Santo Domingo, according to border officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Evans Francois has a luxurious residence in the Dominican Republic, which shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola with Haiti.

Despite the reports, the Dominican Republic's foreign affairs secretary, Carlos Morales Troncoso, would not confirm Tuesday that Gen. Francois had been granted political asylum.

The news electrified Aristide supporters.

"It is an important step towards the reestablishment of democracy and peace," Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul, Mr. Aristide's campaign manager, told the AP.

The others (Cedras and Biamby) should follow his example."

Gen. Francois was widely seen as the power behind three years of military domination.

## Israel agreeable to cutback

(Continued from page 1)

symmetrical because Syria has a larger regular army.

Mr. Shalev estimated that the Syrians had six to seven divisions in regular ground troops stationed in the 65 kilometres between the Golan and Damascus, while Israel had about one division in the Golan.

Israel could afford a cut in these numbers only after ties were normalised with Syria, or a later stage in implementing a treaty, he said. "Otherwise war risks are greater," from Israel's standpoint, he told AP.

In his speech Monday, Mr. Rabin sounded an optimistic note on the status of peace negotiations underway since the Madrid conference in 1991.

year," Syrian President Hafez Al Assad as well as the Lebanese and Jordanian leaders would be guests at Israel's parliament. He was apparently referring to the Jewish calendar year, which started in September.

Meanwhile headline former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon led a "no concessions" fight back Tuesday after Mr. Rabin urged Israelis to give peace a chance with Syria.

"The Golan is the price the Syrians must pay for their aggression," Mr. Sharon said in an angry article in the Jerusalem Post. "It's a small price."

He said Syria had attacked Israel three times and waged a war of attrition against civilians in the Galilee over the 19 years leading up to the 1991 Madrid conference.

According to Mr. Sharon, a challenger for the leadership of the opposition Likud Party, renouncing the Golan Heights would mean "Israel's continued existence or destruction..." depend more on the goodwill of the Syrian dictator than on the Israeli Defence Force.

"Until 15 years ago, Iran was Israel's main ally in the Middle East. Overnight it became Israel's most dangerous enemy," said the man who led the 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

He listed more reasons for keeping the strategic plateau: — 30 per cent of Israel's water comes from the Golan and Lebanon's Bekaa Valley; — Syria's army is swelling with 5,000 tanks, 1,000 surface-to-surface missiles; — "Syrian rule" in Lebanon threatens Israel's northern border;

He accused Mr. Rabin of wanting to end the historic



## Jordanian experts study setting up Palestinian bourse

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan experts who have had experience in setting up stock exchanges in the Gulf states are expected to help Palestinians set up a bourse in the West Bank and have concluded a field study of the situation there, AFM officials and brokers said Tuesday.

However, they cautioned, it is too early to discuss the actual mechanisms of setting up such a bourse, given the absence of public shareholding companies and the uncertain future of the economic course of the Palestinian territories.

The Jordanian help in studying the situation ahead of drawing up a feasible project for a Palestinian stock market comes in line with a provision in the economic agreement signed between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in January and modified in May.

The PLO leadership has not ratified the accord since it contains some other clauses which it sees as contradicting the Palestinian quest for independence and the trappings of statehood during the five-year interim autonomy in the occupied West Bank and

Gaza Strip. AFM officials and brokers said a Jordanian team visited the West Bank and the Gaza Strip last week and held talks with Palestinian businessmen as well as officials of the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in charge of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

The team, which will submit a technical report to the government on their findings, believes that the proposed Palestinian stock market could be based in Ramallah, which is gaining increased prominence as the financial capital of the Palestinians, they said.

A large number of Palestinian businessmen, faced with skyrocketing real estate prices and rents in Jerusalem coupled with Israeli restrictions on Arab-owned businesses, have opted to base their operations in Ramallah, 15 kilometres north of Jerusalem.

"The visit of the team does not mean that a Palestinian stock market will spring up in Ramallah overnight," said an AFM broker. "The idea has been discussed for several months now, and the visit of the experts paves the way for a closer study of the situation there ahead of drawing up plans for a feasible bourse."

"You need good legislation, a good number of public

shareholding companies and all other paraphernalia before even thinking of starting a stock market," noted the broker. "The occupied territories do not have any of these, and this means starting from scratch."

"That should not be a dissuading factor, but, quite simply, setting up a stock market is a mammoth task that demands very close attention to minute details of the market, not to mention a healthy economy to provide the right background," added the broker.

However, AFM officials noted, Jordan, which launched its stock market in the mid-70s, has had extensive experience in the field and that Jordanian experts had helped several Arab countries launch successful bourses, particularly Oman and Iraq.

Initial proposals call for the shares of to-be-set-up Palestinian companies to be traded at the AFM before moving the operations to the West Bank as an independent Palestinian stock market.

"Such a link is only logical," said a banker. "In all probability the Jordanian dinar would remain to be one of the main currencies in the occupied territories for some time."

MADRID (AFP) — Asian infrastructure projects ranging from power generation to telecommunications are forecast to absorb up to \$150 billion a year over the next decade, World Bank officials said Monday.

The officials said recent estimates by the bank, based on forecasts by the Asian Development Bank and other sources, saw demand for infrastructure in rapidly expanding East Asian countries reaching between \$1.3 trillion and \$1.5 trillion between now and 2004.

Spending on infrastructure is forecast to rise from five per cent of their combined gross domestic product (GDP) to seven per cent in the same period. At \$150 billion a year, East Asia would account for 75 per cent of the estimated \$200 billion developing countries now spend on infrastructure, about four per cent of GDP and 20 per cent of total investment.

China, Indonesia and Vietnam, with a combined population of more than 1.4 billion, will account for most of the demand, according to a recent estimate by an official at the International Finance Corp., an affiliate of the bank.

Nicholas Hope, director of the World Bank's country department for China and Mon-

golia, said infrastructure projects were absorbing about 45 per cent of lending to China, the bank's biggest single borrower.

The bank's lending to China is expected to total some \$3 billion a year under the current three-year plan.

Mr. Hope, speaking to reporters at the bank's annual meeting in Madrid, said the World Bank was trying to promote additional leveraged finance to China by providing guarantees to private-sector loans.

The bank has already guaranteed principal repayment for the last five years of a 15-year private placement for one Chinese project and would like to undertake similar guarantees to "to the maximum extent," he said. "We're currently looking at ways to serve as a catalyst to the private sector," he said, adding that the bank was especially interested in Chinese projects involving toll roads, ports and power stations.

The director said he was confident that China, which has of the world's fastest growing economies, would avoid the inflationary pressures of early 1989 which partly fuelled student protests the same year.

"Clearly, they're having difficulties in reining in inflation," Mr. Hope said. But he

added that part of the reason was the lifting of price controls which had removed distortions in areas such as fuel and agriculture. "They have done a lot of things that they have got to do."

"It will be a soft landing if you have confidence," he said, adding that he still had reservations about the latest forecast for 11 per cent growth, down from 13 per cent last year, as being too strong.

Mr. Hope added, however, that there was a "great deal of confidence in the bank" that China could maintain an annual GDP growth rate of between eight and nine per cent over the next five to 10 years.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said that China's huge market rather than its cheap labour force was now the main attraction for foreign companies investing in the country.

"Although there have been statutory changes to reduce preferential tax treatment and tougher competition for foreign direct investment from neighbouring Asian countries such as Vietnam, China represents an enormous potential market still to be exploited," it said in a half-yearly report.

The report, one of several supplementary analyses attached to the IMF's World

Economic Outlook, noted that China was already the world's largest market in certain sectors, such as telecommunications and aerospace.

"The possibility of considerable productivity gains from external trade and structural reform and the substantial investments that are needed in infrastructure contributed to the attractiveness for foreign investors."

"Access to China's large domestic market, rather than a low cost production base, now appears to be the primary attraction for foreign direct investment," said the report, which largely reflects the Japanese government's recent assessments of the Chinese economy.

The IMF noted that more than half the foreign direct investment in China between 1979 and 1990 came from "overseas Chinese" residing in Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and other countries in Asia.

While other foreign investors, such as Americans and Japanese, undertook Chinese projects through Hong Kong, many of these investors took a wait-and-see attitude, postponing investment decisions until market conditions became more certain and favourable," the report said. Other distinctive features

of foreign investment in China include the focus on coastal areas such as Guangdong, Fujian, Shanghai, along with an initial concentration on the real-estate and natural-resource sectors.

"Foreign investment in the service sector, except for hotels and foreign exchange dealings, was largely restricted until 1992 when the authorities began to allow investment in wholesale and retail trade, professional services and other services," the report noted.

The IMF stressed that foreign direct investment was still only a "relatively small" proportion of China's overall investment, averaging less than seven per cent until the early 1990s and coming to 11 per cent last year.

"China has nevertheless reaped important benefits from foreign direct investment in several areas," it said, pointing to the broadening of the structure of production, technological development and higher productivity.

The IMF also noted the positive impact of generating external demand for Chinese products by enhancing the country's export competitiveness and providing Chinese authorities with concrete models of market mechanisms.

## World financial jamboree kicks off in Spain after bitter clash

MADRID (AFP) — Spain's King Juan-Carlos, braving two Greenpeace activists who managed to elude tight security forces, kicked off the formal proceedings of the world's biggest financial jamboree here Tuesday.

The king, accompanied by his wife, Queen Sofia, opened the three-day annual meeting of the board of governors of the International Monetary Fund and (IMF) and the World Bank at the Field of Nations, a sprawling conference centre and industrial park on the outskirts of Madrid.

The protest by the two activists — who climbed up on to the rafters of the conference centre and threw fake dollar bills protesting the destruction of the ozone layer — briefly diverted attention from a bitter clash between rich and poor countries.

The annual meeting brings together thousands of delegates, including finance ministers and central bank governors from 178 countries.

This year's jamboree marks 50 years since monetary officials gathered in the small New Hampshire town of Bretton Woods in 1944 to establish what were to be-



Lewis Preston come the foundations of the post-war international financial system.

Michel Camdessus, the IMF managing director whose plan for a big increase in global reserves was shot down by rich countries at the weekend, said "serious problems and policy failures remain" after five decades.

He particularly cited high unemployment and weak savings in industrial nations and continued poverty in developing countries, accompanied by the "huge task" in transforming centrally-planned economies to market



Michel Camdessus economies.

Mr. Camdessus called for a renewed commitment to "cooperation and solidarity" between member IMF countries to deal with the "many problems that still disfigure the global landscape."

He also called for compassion — "all that our hearts can add to the coldness of international relations" — and noted that this was one of the demands made at anti-IMF protests in Madrid over the weekend. "Solidarity is all of that but also the last word of reason and wisdom," he said.

World Bank President

Lewis Preston said the bank's objective remained clear, namely "helping our borrowers to reduce poverty and improve living standards through sustainable growth and investment in people."

But meeting that goal involves growing demands, he said, noting that 23 countries had joined the bank alone in the past three years following the breakup of the Soviet Union and the collapse of Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the socialist trading bloc known as Comecon.

Mr. Preston also noted the increasing complexity of bank operations. "We must be as effective in helping with

privatisation as helping to increase education for girls, from assisting with structural change in the former Soviet Union to fighting hunger and disease in sub-Saharan Africa," he said.

But the World Bank president said the Washington-based agency, which has grown fat over the past five decades, had to change to remain effective.

Mr. Preston said the bank should be more selective, increase collaboration with partners, deepen client relationships, measure success by results, improve cost effectiveness and maintain its strong financial management.

China headed the list of

speeches by governors in the afternoon followed by Germany, the United States, Malaysia, Britain, Italy, France, New Zealand, Indonesia, Venezuela, Russia, Japan, Ireland and the Philippines.

The opening ceremony followed a weekend bust-up between the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations and developing countries over a new issue of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), the IMF's reserve asset.

Mr. Camdessus had called for an issue of 36 billion SDRs, worth about \$50 billion, for all IMF members. But the Group of Seven adopted a British-American

proposal for a special allocation of only 16 billion SDRs, mainly targeted at the new members from Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Argentina's Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo,

whose country rejected the Group of Seven plan along with other developing countries, said Sunday that a compromise was likely to be reached over the next two months.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The double Moon square to Neptune and Uranus can keep you from accomplishing work that is necessary and vital to your immediate interests unless you concentrate your efforts by redoubling them.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Try to complete some new venture you started recently, but don't get nervous and argue with others for your point of view. Drive carefully.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Have an early talk over those plans of a constructive nature with your mate, but take care not to get into a heated discussion. Pay off debts.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Talk over your plans with key persons in business early. Analyse the position you desire carefully and take steps towards a conclusion.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Early complete jobs which you have started. Later, a fellow associate may want to start trouble for you. Avoid it.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get into activities which you like in the morning. Later you can bring harmony where it does not exist. Do some shopping for new products.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a good midday to get shopping done after a hard morning's activities. Be more precise at tasks given to please higher-ups.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Morning is the best time for communicating with others. Be appreciative for the blessings you now have and for those yet to come.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Study present interests and income and know how to improve them. Make any property you have more valuable via repairs which need to be done.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can make big headway in gaining personal aims, so get busy at this. Avoid arguments with a good friend you have known for some time.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Quietly rid yourself of any obstacles in the path of your progress. Gain the cooperation of an associate who understands you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Early call your friends and plan to see them soon. Avoid altercations in the evening. Go after your aims quietly.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a good day to get into civic and community tasks at which you are very adept and get fine results. Improve your career activities.

Birthstone of October: Opal Tourmaline

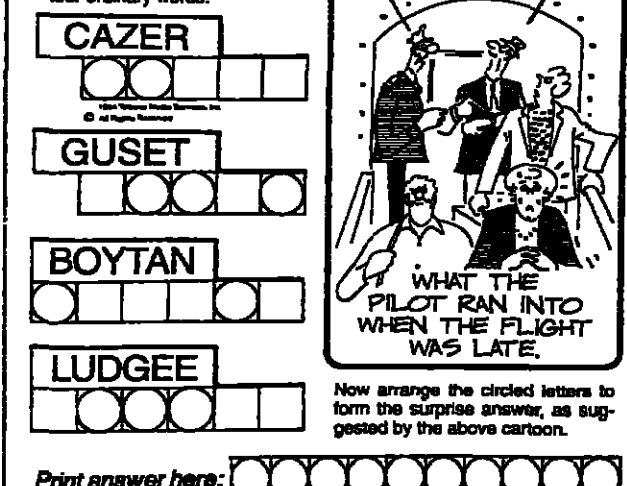
### THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"Harriet, when did you get the glow-in-the-dark tattoo?"

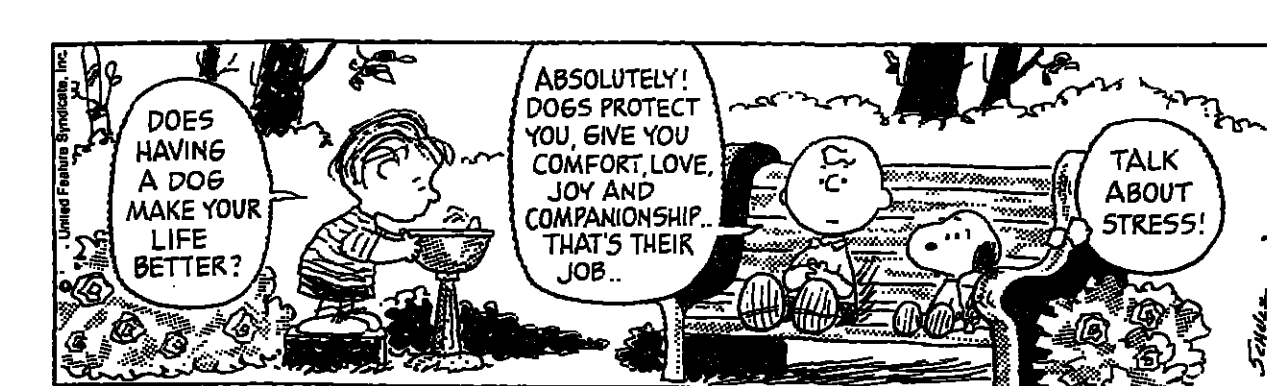
### JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_ (Answers Monday)  
Yesterday's Jumble: LAUGH AFOOT ARCTIC ORPHAN  
Answer: What can be found in a sauna — A LOT OF HOT AIR

### Peanuts



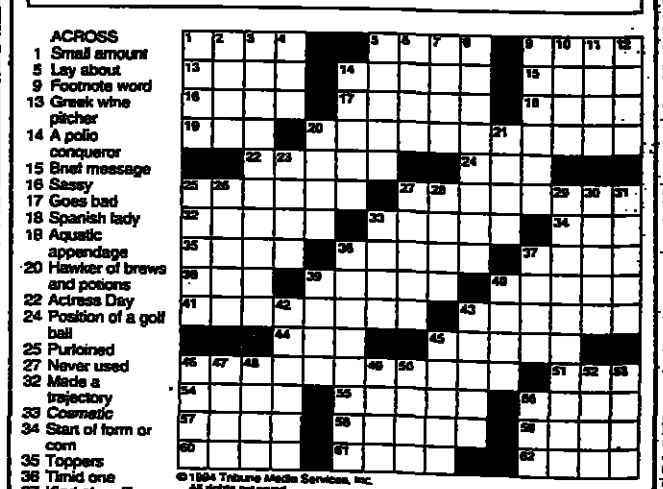
### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



### THE Daily Crossword by Gerald Ferguson





# Financial Markets

**Jordan Times**  
In co-operation with  
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 3/10/94	Tokyo Close Date: 4/10/94
Swiss Franc	1.5790	1.5800
Deutsche Mark	1.5540	1.5510
Swiss Franc	1.2930	1.2895
French Franc	5.3020	5.2945**
Japanese Yen	99.55	99.37
European Currency Unit	1.2310	1.2391**

\* Call for NYU  
\*\* European opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

European Currency Unit Rates  
Date: 2/10/1994

Currency	1 MYN	3 MYN	6 MYN	12 MYN
U.S. Dollar	4.81	5.31	5.50	5.875
Swiss Franc	5.31	5.75	6.37	7.00
Deutsche Mark	4.68	4.93	5.12	5.43
Swiss Franc	3.75	3.93	4.12	4.56
French Franc	5.25	5.40	5.68	6.09
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.12	2.25	2.50
European Currency Unit	5.56	5.87	6.12	6.59

Source: M.I. rates for currency, excluding U.S. Dollar, 1.000.000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin  
Date: 4/10/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6980	0.7000
Swiss Franc	1.1012	1.1067
Deutsche Mark	0.4492	0.4514
Swiss Franc	0.5494	0.5431
French Franc	0.1316	0.1323
Japanese Yen	0.7015	0.7050
Dutch Guilder	0.4012	0.4032
Swedish Krona	0.0446	0.0448
Italian Lira	0.0446	0.0448
Belgian Franc	0.0446	0.0448

Other Currencies  
Date: 4/10/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Lebanese Lira	1.3350	1.3550
Saudi Riyal	0.041065	0.042570
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.1837	0.1875
Qatari Riyal	2.3150	2.3490
Egyptian Pound	0.1905	0.1926
Omani Rial	0.2000	0.2150
UAE Dirham	1.7930	1.8190
UAE Dirham	0.1895	0.1905
Greek Drachma	0.2745	0.3115
Cypriot Pound	1.3980	1.5050

## Nippon Mortgage files for liquidation

TOKYO (AFP) — A medium-sized Japanese financial institution, Nippon Mortgage Co. Ltd., has filed for liquidation proceedings leaving in its wake the third biggest debt by a single Japanese concern since World War II, Teikoku Data-bank Ltd. said.

The private credit research agency said an extraordinary shareholders meeting of Nippon Mortgage, which had debts of 518.4 billion yen (\$5.2 billion), approved the filing with the Tokyo District Court.

Teikoku Data-bank said it was the third largest corporate failure since World War II, following Muramatsu Construction Co. Ltd. in 1993 and Sanko Steamship Co. Ltd. in 1985.

It blamed the crash on Nippon Mortgage's huge non-performing loans following speculative lending during the aggressive-led "bubble economy" in the late 1980s. The company's foray into the development of golf courses also failed.

The company's main creditor, Sumitomo Trust and Banking Co. Ltd., had already said in July that it accepted the liquidation plan. Jiji Press said it expected Sumitomo Trust to take a writeoff of around 90 billion yen of 120 billion yen in bad loans assumed from Nippon Mortgage in the current business year to March next year.

The virtual bankruptcy of the Nippon Mortgage marks a policy shift by Japan's financial ministry, analysts said.

Instead of allowing troubled nonbanks to survive under reconstruction plans, as was the case in the past, the ministry appeared to be letting them be liquidated through the initiative of their main banks, they said.

In the past, the government was worried that a failure of a financial institution would trigger insecurity about the nation's credit system, but it is now more concerned about clearing out bad loans inherited from the years of the "bubble economy," they said.

## Lloyd's investors win historic lawsuit and historic damages

LONDON (AFP) — More than 3,000 Lloyd's investors won a historic High Court victory Tuesday with record damages against "negligent" professionals in the Lloyd's of London insurance market.

Justice Phillips ruled that the investors, or "Names"—many of them elderly—were entitled to compensation from their agents after suffering massive losses caused by negligence of underwriters on Gooda Walker syndicates.

He laid down guidelines for how damages should be assessed, which solicitors representing the Names, Wilde Septe, estimated would reach a record £504 million (756 million) including expenses.

The Names had been claiming £629 million (\$943 million) in damages in the case, the biggest civil lawsuit in British legal history.

The previous record sum awarded was £172 million (\$258 million).

"It is a big win. It represents salvation for many of them," said Gooda Walker campaign leader Michael Deeny. "Today they have saved family homes they would have been forced to sell."

"The tragic truth is that Lloyd's losses were so bad that some members took their own lives," he added. A total of eight names have allegedly committed suicide on account of the massive losses suffered under Lloyd's syndicates.

The 3,095 Names accused the 71 agents of the Gooda Walker syndicates of negligence and mismanagement, saying that they failed to advise them fully of the risks involved.

Agents do not underwrite personally but act as advisers to prospective investors, whereas investors enjoy unlimited profits but also bear unlimited liability in underwriting the insurance contracts.

The Names were all victims for the Lloyd's reinsurance "spiral", in which high-level catastrophe exposures were reinsured from syndicate to syndicate.

The Gooda Walker agency was voluntarily liquidated.

The judgement is expected to have a substantial impact on cases to "spiral" syndicates, whose losses exceed £2 billion.

The next court case being brought by Names is against the Feltrim syndicates, which is expected to come to court on Oct. 17.

Between 1988 and 1991, Lloyd's registered a total deficit of £7 billion after a series of catastrophes including the explosion of the Piper Alpha oil platform, Hurricane Hugo in the U.S., the Exxon Valdez oil spill and the European storms.

The awarded damages will be paid by Lloyd's underwriters, who specialise in coverage for "error and omission," but the sum will not add to losses as it will be paid from reserves already set aside, a Lloyd's spokesman said.

But it remains to be seen whether the Names will collect their full damages, as some defendants have themselves gone bust and many are not covered by insurance to meet such huge claims.

"Fifteen of the (71) agencies are in liquidation, their business destroyed—others may follow. Many have so or insufficient insurance cover to respond to awards of damages now likely," insurers acting for some of the agents said in a statement.

More than 2,000 Names left the market in 1993 and since 1990 over 11,200 have departed. Lloyd's has a total of 17,526 names trading this year.

Lloyd's results are announced three years in arrears to take account of claims.

## Singapore moves to liberalise investment strategies

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Singapore has announced plans to allow its tightly-controlled cash-rich state investment arms and government-linked companies to tap funds and seek fund-management services from the local capital market.

Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew in a major policy change has announced that the move would enable Singapore to strengthen its capabilities in international fund management and investment banking as well as deepen its capital market.

Most of the island republic's statutory boards and government-linked companies have enormous funds which are not fully exploited due to conservative investment strategies, analysts said.

Even if they require external financing, this is often arranged by direct borrowing from the state-owned Post Office Savings Bank, bypassing the private sector capital market.

"This policy will now change. (They) will tap the capital market for their fund requirements.... and will seek fund management services to invest their cash surpluses," Mr. Lee said at a function marking the 10th anniversary of the Singapore International Monetary Exchange (SIMEX).

For a start, the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation (GIC) and Temasek Holdings, the main state-investment arm, will allocate more funds from their East Asian portfolio to be managed by fund managers out of their Singapore offices, Mr. Lee said.

The GIC largely manages Singapore's huge official foreign reserves of about 80 billion Singapore dollars (\$53.3 billion).

Mr. Lee, who stepped down as prime minister in 1990 after steering Singapore from a sleepy Asian backwater to a thriving financial centre, also announced a more liberal policy in investments under a government-managed pension fund.

Beginning January, Central Provident Fund (CPF) contributors will initially be able to invest in foreign stocks and bonds traded on the Stock Exchange of Singapore (SES), moving on to stocks traded on regional markets and eventually to stocks traded in bourses outside Asia, he said.

## Arab contractors to press for bigger market share

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab contractors, fearing an onslaught by giant international companies after the GATT deal, said Tuesday they would soon launch a campaign to get a bigger share of projects carried out in their region.

The Arab Contractors Union (ACU), which groups most building firms in the 22-member Arab League, will begin contacts with their governments and send a delegation to Washington this month to present its demands to the World Bank, according to the top United Arab Emirates (UAE) contractor.

Ahmad Balhassa, chairman of the Emirates Contractors Association (ECA), said the moves were agreed on during an ACU conference in Cairo this week.

"A large delegation from the ACU will visit Washington this month to meet with World Bank officials to demand a percentage of all construction projects it finances in the Arab region," he said in a statement.

"It will also raise the issue during a conference of international contractors due to take place in Atlanta on Oct. 18."

ECA sources said Arab contractors were seeking 25 per cent of those projects in line with a long-standing decision by the Cairo-based Arab League.

They said the World Bank had agreed in principle to award part of the contracts carried out in the region to Arabs following negotiations last year but they have yet to reach agreement on the percentage.

Arab contractors have often complained most of the building projects in the region were being awarded to foreign firms. Independent estimates showed national companies had received less than 10 per cent of the total contracts of more than \$350 billion awarded by Arab states in the past 20 years.

Arab governments have justified their preference of foreign companies to the fact that they have larger financial and technological capabilities.

Arab contractors were particularly upset when most of the giant projects in Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion were awarded to Western companies. They had already been disappointed with the limited business opportunities in Iraq following its 1980-1988 war with neighbouring Iran.

Construction in the Arab World is one of the biggest contributors to the gross domestic product (GDP) in the relatively small investment opportunities in industry and other fields.

In the Gulf, construction is the second biggest after oil, contributing nearly 15 per cent to the GDP. Investment in this sector peaked at around \$30 billion in 1992.

"The situation could become worse if we do not move to counter the growing threat from foreign companies following the recent deal by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade," an ECA official told AFP.

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## Asian Games

## China sweeps swimming, weightlifting

HIROSHIMA (AP) — Swimmer Xiong Guoming became a triple gold medalist Tuesday as China swept all of Tuesday's swimming, diving and weightlifting battles, sending its gold medal lead soaring in the Asian Games.

The Chinese broke world records in two more divisions of women's weightlifting, bringing their total to five in six events.

With victories in women's team gymnastics and individual foil fencing too, the Chinese seized 12 of the 16 golds decided on the second full day of competition — missing only those in karate, a Japanese fighting sport in which it has no entries.

That gave them a total of 20, with Japan far back in second place at eight. Iran and Syria wrecked Japan's chances of a sweep in karate by winning two of the day's four events.

Japan also had hoped to win at least one of the day's swimming golds after its big lead in morning qualifying for the men's 800-metre freestyle relay.

But China won that too, beating the Japanese by nearly a second in an Asian record time of 7 minutes, 26.28 seconds. Japan finished in 7:27.18 and South Korea took the bronze in 7:33.61.

Xiong anchored the relay team to victory after winning the grueling men's 400-metre individual medley Tuesday and the 200 freestyle Monday.

In Tuesday's 400, he won in an Asian record 4:19.40, with Thailand's Ratanapong Sirisanont second in 4:20.03.

Although China's men had been in the shadow of the women's world champion-laden team, Jiang Chengli contributed to the day's shut-out by edging Japan's Hajime Itoi 25.72 to 25.81 in the

100-metre butterfly, setting a games record.

The day's two women's races were Chinese 1-2 sweeps, both with games records: Yuan Yuan and Daihong finished in 2:28.34 and 2:29.72 in the 200-metre breaststroke, and Lu Bin and Le Ying went 1:57.37 and 1:59.77 in the 200 freestyle.

The day's two diving events both were tight all-Chinese battles for gold and silver.

On the men's 3-metre springboard, Wang Tianliang edged teammate Yu Zhoucheng, the world champion, for the gold medal thanks to a high-scoring final dive. Wang finished with 709.41 points. Yu had 698.76 and Japan's Chikami Yasuda was third with 649.53.

Chi Bin, silver medalist in the world championships last month, had a narrower victory over 13-year-old teammate Wang Rui: 496.14 to 494.58 in the women's platform diving. Natalia Chikina won Kazakhstan's first Asian Games medal, a bronze, with 433.80.

China's world record-breakers in weightlifting Tuesday were Chen Xiaomin at 59 kilograms and Tang Weifang at 70 kilograms.

Chen, last year's world champion at 54 kilograms, lifted a total of 220 kilograms (484 pounds), beating the record of 217.5 (478.5 pounds) set at the championships by teammate Sun Caiyan. Her total also was well above the world record of 200 (440 pounds) Chen had set in winning the 54-kilogramme class last year.

Her 54-kilogramme division record, however, had fallen Monday when teammate Zhang Juhua lifted 202.5 (445.5 pounds).

Tang's total of 230 (506 pounds) broke the world mark of 220 (484 pounds) set

at the championships last year by Bulgaria's Milena Trendafilova.

This came second to both record-breakers Tuesday. Khassaporn Suta won the silver at 59 kilograms with a total of 207.5 (456.5 pounds). Wasana Pucharkarn was second at 70 kilograms with 220 (484 pounds).

Lei Li was China's other weightlifting gold medalist, winning in the 64-kilogramme class with a total of 225 (495 pounds). Taiwan's Kuo Shu-Fen was second with 210 (462 pounds).

Mo Huilan, dubbed "Mighty Mouse" by her teammates, led China to the women's team gymnastics gold, scoring a pair of 9.95's on the uneven bars and in her floor routine.

China finished with 194.375 points, Japan with 189.050 and South Korea with 184.400.

In women's individual foil fencing, China's Xiao Aihua defeated South Korea's Chang Mi-Kyung in the final.

Japan had karate victories Tuesday from Shinichiro Yamamoto, who beat Vietnam's Tran Van Thong 6-1 in the 60-kilogramme class final, and Shizuo Shina, who outpointed Iran's Saeed Ashtian 6-3 for the 75-kilogramme division gold.

But in the 65-kilogramme class Syria's Rafeat Sali Krad beat Iran's Arash Javanshir for the gold. At 70 kilograms, Iran's Maziar Farid Khomami made up for that by defeating Kuwait's Adel Al Mejadi 4-3 for the title.

Japan had won all four events in the women's competition Monday, boosting hopes for a sweep in the sport that was developed by its people hundreds of years ago.

## No low blows please, we have no equipment

HIROSHIMA (R) — The mystery of Jordan's absence from the opening ceremony of the Asian Games karate event has been revealed — they were trying to buy equipment.

While the 23 other nations lined up here Monday, for the formal opening, Jordanian officials were one floor below frantically negotiating for essential protective equipment.

The Yomiuri newspaper reported one Jordanian official told organisers urging his teammates to attend the ceremonial opening. "This is more important."

Contact is technically not allowed in the kumite, or combat, section of the ka-

rate competition, which is making its debut as an Asian Games sport.

But competitors use protective head gear and padding covering sensitive parts of the body, because of the possibility of misdirected blows.

Jordan, where the protective gear is unavailable, tried to buy it from the United States before arriving in Hiroshima.

When it did not arrive they turned to Japanese suppliers who have a wide selection because karate is the country's favourite martial art.

After hard negotiations over the asking price of \$90 for a face mask, the Jordanians went into Tuesday's competition no longer having to worry low blows.

## Palestine asks help in rebuilding sport

HIROSHIMA, Japan (R) — Palestine, with a lone competitor at the Hiroshima Asian Games, appealed to the world sports community Tuesday for help in building its sports facilities.

Rabie Al Turk, representing the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) at the Hiroshima Games, said his country was in such deep crisis that it could not afford to send more than one athlete to compete at the games.

"The International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) should help us.... we dream of stadiums, equipment, but we have nothing... nothing," Al Turk said.

He pointed out that the \$1.5 billion that Hiroshima spent in building facilities for the games, which opened Sunday, would have helped rebuild half of Gaza and Jericho.

"But we also take heart from the fact that Hiroshima, like Palestine, had to be completely rebuilt," he said.

Hiroshima was razed to the ground by an atomic bomb in World War II in 1945, while Palestine has just been handed over to limited Palestinian rule by Israel.



China's Le Ying (photo above) in action during the qualifying rounds of the women's 200kg freestyle event Tuesday at the 12th Asian Games in Hiroshima. Photo below shows South Korea's Kim Young Il (top) flying over

Japan's Takumi Mori during their bout in the preliminary round of the 68-kilogramme Greco-Roman wrestling event. Kim defeated Mori 3-2 on points (AFP photos)



## Ma looks for success in Atlanta

HIROSHIMA (AFP) — Ma Junren arrived in Hiroshima Tuesday to claim some assured Asian Games gold medals but he warned that his "army" of runners will really peak at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

The now-legendary athletics coach was first off the plane that brought the latest Chinese contingent to Hiroshima. He was mobbed in the airport as he waited for his track stars to join him.

Ma said he had brought two men who have been added to his battalion of seven women runners, including world champions Wang Junxia and Qu Yunxia, for Hiroshima.

"I am looking for five gold medals for my team," he told reporters.

But in a warning of what to expect, he added: "They will reach their peak for the 1996 Olympics. They have not been at their top form this

year and they may not be next year either."

After their success at the world championships last year, Wang and Qu were kept away from the international grand prix circuit this year. Ma himself has also been struck down by a mysterious illness which his entourage described as "a stomach ailment."

Wang, the 10,000m and 3,000m world record holder and now one of the world's premier athletes, gave a relatively modest assessment of her chances in Hiroshima. "I don't think I can break a world record here. I came to win a gold and I think I can do that," she said.

Ma has arrived with the mystery surrounding his training methods still intact. No-one outside China knows the key to the success of the former soldier and self-taught track expert, which is sure to continue here.

His "army" made its first major impact at the world championships in Stuttgart, where Wang, Qu and Liu Dong all won middle-distance titles before shredding the record books in Beijing last September.

Their rivals immediately blamed drugs but the tide of opinion has now turned. Several top Western coaches share the opinion of former British supreme Frank Dick that: "They are working harder than us and may have discovered better ways of recovering from training — we should try and learn from them."

Zhu Zanling, deputy secretary general of the Chinese Olympic Committee, argued: "It seems only the United States and Europe are allowed to become a powerful force in athletics. When China becomes a force

it is not accepted and there is all this talk about drugs. Why?"

Liaoning-based Ma, however, has shrewdly cashed in on the mystery. Altitude training and discipline were the key, he revealed — as well as turtle blood and an elixir he was quick to market and sell to the highest bidder.

He is also the supreme politician, winning a power game with China's athletics bosses by reportedly threatening to resign at the start of the year over interference in his training methods and lack of financial support.

The shroud of mystery continued when Wang and Co. who are reported to run huge distances every day, were pulled out of the London Marathon at the last minute and have barely been seen since outside China.

## Afghans get school uniforms

HIROSHIMA (AP) — Wrestlers from Afghanistan are using the uniforms of a local high school to compete in the Greco-Roman events at the 12th Asian Games.

Asiad News, the official newspaper of the games, said Tuesday that the Afghans are borrowing wrestling singlets from Miyoshi Prefectural High School after arriving in Hiroshima without their own uniforms and lacking the money to buy new ones.

A local sporting goods company that specialises in wrestling equipment was unable to have singlets ready for Tuesday's opening round of competition.

## Congress to hold more hearings if baseball strike drags on

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. Congress will hold renewed hearings on the baseball strike if it drags on into next year, the chairman of the house committee on education and labour warned Monday.

Rep. Pat Williams said if the strike is not settled by the time Congress reconvenes Jan. 3, he will recall officials from management and the players association for more testimony.

"I think it's likely the house will likely pass either or both antitrust legislation or binding arbitration legislation if we have seen no action by January," Williams said in a telephone interview.

The house judiciary com-

mittee last week passed legislation that would have partially removed the owners' exemption from antitrust laws, but the effort to pass similar legislation in the senate ended Friday.

Congress is set to adjourn Friday, but several legislators said both sides should interpret the debate as a "wake-up call."

"I believe the house absolutely will take action if nothing's changed by the time it returns," Williams said.

No talks are scheduled to end the strike, which went through its 53rd day Monday. Owners negotiator Richard Ravitch was visiting his son in England and Acting Commis-

sioner Bud Selig said he was not sure if Ravitch will return this week.

Union head Donald Fehr, who last week completed a seven-city tour to update his players, was back in his New York office. Fehr probably will visit Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic next week to give further updates to players.

Owners are expected to meet in Detroit during the week of Oct. 17 to discuss how they will proceed next season.

"I'm not sure we'll meet, but if we do it'll be in that time range," Selig said Monday.

## Mystery surrounds drug tests

HIROSHIMA (R) — The mystery of a surprise drug test here on almost the entire squad of China's world beating women swimmers deepened Tuesday with even Asian Games organisers unaware of the results.

Results of the first part of the tests, carried out four days ago, theoretically can be known the following day. But neither organisers of the Asian Games said they were completely in the dark about the results, even though some swimmers, including the Chinese, have already competed and won medals in the games.

"We have not been told because the tests were administered by FINA (International Amateur Swimming Federation)," said Koji ODA, a spokesman for the organising committee's medical and health division.

"It leaves a cloud over everyone," one games official said. Of the 16 Chinese swimmers tested by FINA last Friday, two days before the opening of the Asian Games, 12 were won from a squad that dominated August's world championships in Rome. The swimmers were FINA members.

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Diego Maradona

## Maradona starts career as coach

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Diego Maradona, suspended from playing football by FIFA for failing a dope test at the World Cup, is to start a new career as coach of Argentine first division side, Deportivo Mandiyu.

The move, announced by Maradona and club president Roberto Cruz Monday, will see the former legend work alongside deputy coach, Carlos Frey.

Maradona, now nearly 34, was banned for 15 months after testing positive in the United States for the stimulant ephedrine, almost certainly putting an end to his playing career.

Since the ban, he has been working at another of his

former clubs, Boca Juniors, as an unpaid assistant coach to Cesar Luis Menotti.

However, Maradona is clearly hoping his playing days are not quite over.

"I hope this new experience leads to a great result," he said, adding "I'm also going to use it to keep myself fit, and when the opportunity arises, to wear shorts again."

Deportivo Mandiyu, based in the northern province of Corrientes, have yet to win after three defeats and two draws so far this season.

Unfazed by the lack of success, Maradona said: "The whole city is behind the team and, anyway, I've been in this situation before when I played for Argentina Juniors."

## Red card mania invades Leicester

LEICESTER, England (AFP) — Red card mania came to Leicester Monday where referee Keith Cooper sent two players off as the home side forced a 2-2 draw against Coventry in the Premiership.

First former Scottish international Gary Gillespie, playing his first full game for Coventry since 1983, was ordered to take an early shower after 28 minutes for a tackle on England under-21 international Julian Joachim.

Then three minutes before half-time Leicester defender Jimmy Willis got a red card after a clash of heads with Coventry striker Paul Cook.

Both decisions were termed "bizarre" by officials of both teams.

American international Roy Wegerle had opened the scoring for the visitors after just 11 minutes when he volleyed home from inside the box after captain Dion Dublin had nodded down from an Ally Pickering's cross.

Leicester drew level just before the interval when Joachim's header was kept out by Steve Ogrizovic only for the ball to fall to Roberto who shot into the net.

Dublin put Coventry back in front when he scored his fourth goal for the club in as many matches — sticking out

a foot to deviate a Pickering cross.

Roberto's equaliser came when he latched on to a Lee Philpott shot to score his second goal of the game — although Coventry defenders looked for an offside decision.

Adams, the most successful skipper in Arsenal's history, said: "Obviously I'm absolutely delighted. It's a dream come true."

There will be those who wonder at the appointment of a player who spent three months in an open prison for driving offences three years ago.

But coach Terry Venables said: "When I took over I made it clear it was a clean sheet for everyone."

Adams, who made his Arsenal debut at the age of 17, 11 years ago, became one of the club's youngest ever leaders four years ago.

But as Adams was celebrating, Cole was putting a brave face on his latest England disappointment, saying: "There's been a lot of talk in the papers about my shins and I admit I've been playing with an injury for the past few weeks."

"As far as I'm concerned I'm fit to play every game and as long as Newcastle think I am, I'm happy."

## Ivory Coast and Ghana bid for reconciliation

LOME (AFP) — The football federations of Ivory Coast and Ghana have arranged two "reconciliation" matches later this month, following a spate of soccer-inspired killings in Abidjan a year ago.

The violence against Ghanaians living in Ivory Coast was sparked by a club cup match in October 1993, with the death toll put variously at

25 dead by the Abidjan authorities and 50 by Ghanaian officials.

Teams from both countries were banned from continental competition by the African Football Confederation (CAF), who nominated Togo as a mediator.

A meeting here Sunday involving officials from both sides ended with an agreement

## Eighth seed eliminated in Zurich

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — Fifth-seeded Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria struggled to defeat veteran Pam Shriver of the United States 7-5, 7-6 (7-5) Monday, opening day of the \$750,000 European Indoors women's tennis tournament.

Shriver, ranked no. 51 in the world, lost a 4-0 advantage in the tiebreak to go out of the tournament.

Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic ousted eighth-seeded Florencia Labat of Argentina 6-5, 6-3 in the only surprise of the day.

Sukova, 29, has won both previous encounters against the 23-year-old Argentine, who has climbed from 51 to 29 in the world rankings this year.

Sixth-seeded Lori McNeil of the United States defeated compatriot Katrina Adams 2-6, 6-3, 7-5. In another American duel, Marianne Werdel knocked out Sandra Cicic in 6-3, 6-4 straight sets.

Qualifier Shaun Stafford, also of the United States, trounced Israel's Anna Smashnova 6-0, 6-1.

Switzerland's Martina Hingis, who turned 14 last weekend was due to make her debut on the professional circuit late Tuesday.

Hingis won the juniors competition at Wimbledon and Roland Garros, and made it to the finals in the U.S. Open. Entering the tournament as a wild card, she was to face Pat Fendick of the United States.

Hingis decided to miss her allocated practice slot on the courts in exchange for a few hours at home with her family.

Also Tuesday, Martina Navratilova, the tournament's top seed was scheduled to meet fellow American Ann Grossman.

## Ivanisevic loses temper, cash, match in Australia

SYDNEY, Australia (AFP) — Top seed Goran Ivanisevic was fined \$2,500 after a bad-tempered first round loss to American Richey Reneberg at the Australian Indoor tennis championships here Tuesday night.

Reneberg downed the world No. 3 7-6 (8/6), 6-3 in 83 minutes as the Croatian grew increasingly irritated in front of a vocal crowd at the Sydney Entertainment Centre.

ATP Tour tournament supervisor Gayle Bradshaw fined Ivanisevic \$1,500 for swearing at a spectator and another \$1,000 for refusing to attend a post-match press conference.

Ivanisevic had thrown down his racket and repeatedly questioned line calls before incurring a verbal abuse warning after he'd spoken to a woman in a courtyard corporate box during a first set tie-breaker.

Reneberg's first win over Ivanisevic in seven meetings was a 29th birthday present that came a few hours early.

The Croatian appeared to lose spirit after dropping the first set and the American raced through the second in just 25 minutes, returning serve brilliantly.

"I sensed in the middle of the first set that he didn't really seem to have his head in it as much as usual," said Reneberg, who believed Ivanisevic's first round U.S. Open loss to Germany's Markus Zieck was still troubling him.

Defending champion Jamie Yzaga of Peru, the third seed, also made an early exit, beaten 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 in a baseline duel by American Aaron Krickstein.

And second-seeded Boris Becker had problems, too, although he managed to survive a first round scare from



Goran Ivanisevic

Australian qualifier Sandon Stolle.

Becker had to pull out 20 aces and a couple of his trademark diving volleys to down the 197th ranked Australian 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, in almost two hours at the Sydney Entertainment Centre.

Becker, the world no. 7, had not played since his first round U.S. Open defeat by American Richey Reneberg five weeks ago.

In a hard-fought third set, the German's quality serves under pressure proved the difference — he hit three aces to recover from 0-40 down in the sixth game and four more to rally from 15-40 down in the eighth.

"From his ranking he was not supposed to play like that," said Becker.

"But he had two matches over the weekend in qualifying, it's his home country and he probably knew I hadn't played for a few weeks and all of that made it a tough match."

The fifth seed, Australia's Patrick Rafter, also did it tough against American qualifier Louis Gloria 7-6 (8/6) 7-5.

In other first round matches, Zimbabwe's Byron Black eliminated Australian Jamie Morgan 6-4 6-4 and veteran Wally Masur beat wildcard entry Ben Ellwood 6-4 6-2 in an all-Australian clash.

## Rosset puts tiredness behind in Toulouse

PARIS (AFP) — Swiss number-one Marc Rosset, who has admitted to being jaded with a gruelling late season programme, put his tiredness behind him and reached the second round of the \$400,000 ATP tournament in Toulouse Monday without dropping a set.

The big-serving Rosset, seeded to meet Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine in next Sunday's final, raced to a 6-4, 6-4 win over French-based Haitian Ronald Agener.

Rosset, a finalist at Bordeaux two weeks ago, reached the quarterfinals in

Basel last week.

Medvedev, who has come in as top-seed following the injury absence of world number-one Pete Sampras, will have a tough challenge when he opens campaign Wednesday against in-form Frenchman Guy Forget.

Forget, the world's fourth-ranked player in 1991, has stormed back up the rankings with some remarkable results after his long lay-off for a knee injury.

The 29-year-old left-hander, ranked outside the top 1,000 at Wimbledon this Summer but a semifinalist at

both Bordeaux and Basel, moved up to 59th in the new standings published Monday.

In Monday's other first round matches, experienced Swiss Jakob Hlasek came back to beat David Rikl of the Czech Republic 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 while Hendrik Dreckman of Germany put out Amos Mansdorf of Israel 6-4, 7-6 (7/4).

Home hopes Olivier Delatre and Fabrice Santoro also came safely through the first round with straight-set wins over compatriots Lionel Barteaux and Jean-Philippe Fleurian.

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♥ A 10 5  
♦ A 5 4  
♣ 5 4

**WEST**  
♠ Q 10 8  
♥ K 8 5 2  
♦ J 9 3  
♣ 7 6 2

**EAST**  
♠ J 7  
♥ J 5  
♦ Q 10 8 2  
♣ K J 10 9 8

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 9 5 4 3  
♥ Q 7 4  
♦ K 7  
♣ A 3

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass  
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass  
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass  
Opening lead: Seven of ♠  
Usually, it does not matter whether you know the best way to

play a particular combination — there is little to choose between the best and next best. But some common holdings offer vast differences between the two. The heart suit in this hand is an example.

North's jump to two no trump showed a 13-15 point balanced hand. Since it could contain four hearts, South checked by bidding the suit, then chose the suit game when North denied three hearts, but confirmed three spades by taking a preference.

After the club lead, declarer was looking at two potential heart losers and one in clubs, at least one certain trump loser and still had to worry about the bothersome fourth heart. Declarer tried dummy's queen of clubs on the opening lead only to learn there was a sure loser in the suit when East produced the king. In with the ace of clubs, declarer

wisely refrained from drawing trumps. The third trump in dummy might be needed for a heart ruff and if declarer took two high trumps the enemy might be able to draw a third round when they gained the lead in hearts.

Since cashing the ace of hearts and leading toward the closed hand would present a guess and risk a defensive ruff, declarer instead led a low heart to the ten, losing to East's jack. East cashed a high club and continued the suit for declarer to ruff. The king and ace of trumps were cashed, the nine of hearts was run successfully and the ace was cashed. It did not matter if a defender ruffed with the master trump. As the cards lay, the ace held, so declarer returned to hand with the king of diamonds and ruffed the last heart. That limited the losers to one trump, one heart and one club.

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## U.S., Israel and Jordan stress need for 'gradual' cooperation

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The United States, Israel and Jordan stressed the "importance of gradual implementation of regional cooperation" in a communique issued after President Clinton's Tuesday 3 meeting with Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan and Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The joint statement spelled out the master plan for development of the Jordan Rift Valley, stressing the benefit of tourism and expanded trade. Included in the plan are studies of expanded water availability, a canal linking the Red Sea with the Dead Sea, and creation of a Red Sea Marine peace park.

Following is the text of the joint statement:

1. President William J. Clinton met at the White House today with His Royal Highness Crown Prince El Hassan Ben Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel to pursue their common purpose of creating a new era of peace in the Middle East.

2. Jordan and Israel reaffirmed the five underlying principles of their understanding on an Agreed Common Agenda and commemorated the first trilateral meeting, convened by President Clinton one year ago in Washington, D.C., establishing the U.S.-Jordan-Israel Trilateral Economic Committee. The Trilateral Economic Committee created new momentum

which led to the first ministerial-level trilateral meetings in the region, at the Dead Sea in Jordan and at the Eilat-Aqaba border crossing, and to the July 25, 1994, Washington Declaration ending the state of war between Jordan and Israel.

3. HRH Crown Prince El Hassan and Foreign Minister Peres outlined to President Clinton the significant progress that was recently made in Aqaba in the bilateral negotiations between Jordan and Israel, and reaffirmed their commitment enshrined in the Washington Declaration signed by President Clinton, King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin to achieve a full peace treaty between the two countries, hopefully in the near future.

The progress made in the bilateral and trilateral negotiations are also based on a shared view of the need for comprehensive peace in the region. In this context the three leaders believe in the importance of gradual implementation of regional cooperation that would address in a balanced manner the basic economic and social needs of the peoples of the region, the struggle against unemployment and poverty, development of human resources and lead to the development of a regional and comprehensive security concept. This will also require regional institution building based on the Multilateral Working Groups, leading to the possible development of a

Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Middle East (CSCME) concept. The three leaders called upon other regional and non-regional partners to participate in the exploration of these concepts and targets to create a new Middle East.

4. To implement further the provisions contained in the Washington Declaration of 25th July 1994, the U.S.-Jordan-Israel Trilateral Economic Committee today announced agreement on:

A. The finalised terms of reference for the Jordan Rift Valley Joint Master Plan, that portrays an integrated concept for the development of the Jordan Rift Valley and entails a wide variety of economic projects that are of mutual benefit to the two countries, as well as for the region.

B. The importance of the Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit in Casablanca (October 30-November 1). In this context it is important that the work of the Trilateral Committee will be highlighted, including joint projects, business and investment opportunities, and the promotion of partnership between the public and private sectors.

In view of the fact that the next Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit will be held in Amman, the Trilateral Committee favours the establishment of a continuous mechanism to promote the investment

of the private sector and to develop necessary strategies for regional economic development, in conjunction with the Regional Economic Development Working Group (REDWG) of the multilateral peace process. The three sides will coordinate on preparations for the Economic Summits within the trilateral framework.

C. Regarding the importance of regional economic development, the three sides believe it is essential to pursue and explore the creation of a regional organisation for economic development and creation of a multilateral financing mechanism. These concepts will be further developed in the upcoming meeting of the REDWG Monitoring Committee and in the Casablanca Conference.

D. In order to encourage economic progress resulting from the ongoing peace process, it was also decided:

1. To address in the upcoming U.S.-Jordan Bilateral Commission ways in which the United States can assist Jordan's economic development by encouraging private investment, business development and entrepreneurship and promoting bilateral trade.

2. To explore the creation of a cooperative free trade zone in Aqaba/Eilat based on the principle of free flow of goods between countries, at the upcoming expert level meeting in Israel from Oct. 10-13 and Jordan from Oct. 17-20, 1994.

3. The exchange of selective



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and U.S. President Bill Clinton look on as Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres addresses a White House gathering after a trilateral meeting on Monday (AFP photo)

delegations in the economic field between Jordan and industrialists, bankers, heads of Chambers of Commerce and economic media leaders.

E. Regarding tourism as a major component of economic development, it was agreed:

1. The completion of construction by Oct. 15, 1994, of a new northern border crossing point for third country nations.

2. A Red Sea marine peace park, with a U.S. start-up grant from the State's Department's Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs Bureau's Special Fund.

3. The Trilateral Committee also agreed to promote Israel and Jordan as a joint tourism destination, citing Jordanian-Israeli collaboration on the Sept. 28-29 Tourism in the New Middle

East Workshop in Cairo, the Nov. 6-12 Lisbon Conference, of the American Society of Travel Agents, and the January-February 1995 Peace Trips for U.S. and international tourism and travel sector representatives and the news media (including representatives of the two countries).

4. The new northern border crossing point for third country nations, the Red Sea Marine Peace Park, and the inclusion of tourism in the terms of reference of the Jordan Rift Valley Joint Master plan will enhance both countries' appeal as a joint tourism destination, in addition to the Aqaba-Eilat southern border crossing point and the Dead Sea Lowest Point on Earth Park.

5. Establishment of an Eilat/Aqaba free tourism zone, where citizens of Jordan and Israel can visit in addition to third country nationals.

F. Water resources:

1. Based on the necessity to develop new and alternative water resources on a regional scale the Trilateral Committee will develop Terms of Reference in order to conduct relevant feasibility studies.

2. Jordan and Israel will pursue in common financing of the dams as agreed upon in recent Aqaba talks.

3. Under the auspices of the Trilateral Economic Committee, and with technical assistance and support from the U.S. Trade and Development Agency and the U.S. private sector, a symposium on the Red Sea-Dead Sea Canal proposal will be hosted by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in conjunction with the government of Israel.

## COLUMN

### Aga Khan seeks divorce

LONDON (AFP) — The Aga Khan, leader of the world's 25 million Ismaili Muslims, is seeking a divorce, a spokesman said here Monday. "The Aga Khan does not normally make statements on his or his family's private lives and therefore will issue no further statement on this development," the spokesman told P A News. Lawyers acting for the Aga Khan, 57, were instructed on Sept. 30 to seek a divorce from Her Highness Begum Salima Aga Khan. The couple married on Oct. 21, 1969, and have three children, Princess Zahra, 24, Prince Rahim, 23, and Prince Hussain, 20.

### World's largest book fair opens today

FRANKFURT (AFP) — The world's largest book fair opens here Wednesday with more exhibitors, more floor-space and a stronger accent on electronic publishing. Over a period of six days more than 8,500 publishers — 100 more than last year — from 100 countries will display 321,975 titles. Germany will have the most representatives, 2,215, followed by Britain, 900, the United States, 756, the Netherlands, 285 and France, 276. Fair organisers have banned Iranian exhibitors to protest a death sentence issued by the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini on British author Salman Rushdie. They have also spoken out against travel restrictions imposed by the Nigerian government on a past Nigerian winner of the Nobel Literature Prize, Wole Soyinka. Sources close to the fair Monday meanwhile said it was hoped that Bangladesh author Taslima Nasreen, condemned to death by Islamic militants in her homeland, will attend the gathering here.

### Survivor of 1989 air crash awarded 24m

CHICAGO (R) — A jury Monday awarded \$24.2 million to a 70-year-old widow who survived a 1989 United Airlines crash in Sioux City, Iowa. Doris Levenberg, of Munster, Indiana, had filed suit after refusing offers of a settlement from United Airlines, plane manufacturer McDonnell Douglas Corp., and engine maker General Electric Co. United Airlines attorney John Adler said the award was "quite a bit larger" than the company had anticipated. He would not comment on a possible appeal of the Cook County Circuit Court verdict. Levenberg's husband, Alan, 71, was among the 112 people who died in the July 19 crash at Sioux City's airport 44 minutes after an engine exploded, severing the DC-10's hydraulic controls. The plane cartwheeled down the runway during the emergency landing, catching fire.

### Duchess of York arrives in Kenya

NAIROBI (AFP) — Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, arrived here Tuesday to launch a series of projects aimed at improving the lives of mentally handicapped people. The estranged wife of Britain's Prince Andrew, known as "Fergie," is the patron of the Macintyre Foundation, a London-based charity which extended its operations to Kenya last year. The duchess will tour Macintyre-funded schools for the mentally handicapped in Nairobi, Kisumu, and Mombasa, and will also host a fund-raising dinner in Nairobi Thursday at the Macintyre Foundation, according to a spokesman for Lomho Hotels, one of the businesses sponsored by the duchess's tour.

### Swiss climbers conquer Lhotse

KATHMANDU (AFP) — Members of a five-man expedition have reached the summit of Mount Lhotse, the world's fourth tallest mountain, the Nepalese Tourism Ministry said Monday. The ministry said Edward Lorenz and Jean Troillet reached the top of the 8,516 metre (27,938 foot) high mountain on Oct. 1.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Court rejects Demjanjuk appeal

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. Supreme Court rejected Monday a federal appeal to expel alleged Nazi criminal John Demjanjuk who U.S. officials claim was the notorious "Ivan the Terrible," a concentration camp guard in Treblinka. The tribunal let stand a lower-court ruling in November that found the Justice Department had failed to disclose evidence to the court in demanding Demjanjuk's extradition to Israel in 1986.

### China, Israel to boost ties

TEL AVIV (AP) — The highest ranking Chinese official ever in Israel pledged support for Middle East peace efforts Tuesday and discussed widening economic ties with the Jewish state, Israeli officials said. In meeting with Vice Premier Zou Jiahua, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin commended his personal role in secretly developing relations with Israel since 1979, when he headed China's military industries. Israel and China established diplomatic ties in 1992, ending a lengthy Chinese boycott of the Jewish state while Beijing championed the Palestinian cause. Despite the absence of ties, Israel secretly sold military hardware to the Chinese over the years, foreign reports have said.

### Labour backs return of Shas

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Labour Party executive voted in favour of the return of the orthodox religious party Shas to the government coalition on Tuesday. However, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's main coalition partner, the left-wing Meretz, is fighting the move over religious concessions to the orthodox Jewish minority. The executive voted 55 in favour and 20 against of a deal Mr. Rabin has struck with Shas. The issue now goes before the party central committee for final approval, which was expected to be a formality. "We have crossed an important stage which will enable Shas to come back into the coalition," Mr. Rabin said.

### Police smash 'Arab Israeli ring'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli police have smashed a ring of four Arab Israelis set up with outside help to carry out attacks in the Jewish state, police said Monday. All four came from the village of Kfar Qasim east of Tel Aviv on the border of the occupied West Bank and were led by a dentist Rassam Amar. He had recruited an electronics expert, an agronomist and a physicist to make explosive devices to use in attacks, police added. The dentist had also been recruited in Romania towards the end of the 1980s when he was still a student, they added without naming the group. He was then trained in weapons and explosives in Algeria. He was arrested a month ago on his return to Israel at the Ben Gurion airport. The four men were kept in detention for a further four days by a court in Petah Tiqwa, police said.

### Girl dies falling into sewer

CAIRO (AFP) — A four-year-old Egyptian girl died after falling through an open manhole into the sewers while playing with friends on a northern Cairo street, a newspaper reported here Tuesday. Hiba Ramadan Diab disappeared suddenly and her body was found in the sewers following a search that took several hours, the opposition daily Al Wafd said. It was the third time in four months that someone died from falling through a manhole. An elderly man took legal action against the Cairo governor's office after he survived a similar fall in July. The opposition accused the government of "negligence and indifference" toward its citizens.

### Nablus to get traffic police

NABLUS (AFP) — The Palestinian municipal authorities in Nablus were preparing Tuesday to put 75 policemen on the streets to control traffic and guard buildings, officials said. The 75 young men completed a six-week basic police training course in the autonomous Palestinian enclave of Jericho on Monday. The group are not members of the official Palestinian police force which assumed control of Jericho and the Gaza Strip in May. They are municipal employees. In Hebron, Palestinian officials said 70 men from the West Bank town would begin their training in Jericho on Wednesday ready to assume traffic duties in November.

### Water talks to be held in Oslo

OSLO (AFP) — Norway is to host a meeting Wednesday and Thursday in Oslo where representatives from nine countries will discuss water supplies in the Middle East. "Finding a solution to the difficult water supply situation in the Middle East would support the peace process in the area immensely," Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjoern Tore Godal said Tuesday. The Oslo meeting is in cooperation with the World Federation for Environment and Development. Delegations from both Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation will be present, together with representatives from Egypt, Kuwait, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

### Abu Nidal trial opens in Rome

ROME (AFP) — The trial has opened of Abu Nidal and 11 members of his organisation on charges of two bombing attacks here in 1984 and 1985, with only three of the accused present at the hearing. The court adjourned until next Monday after a reading of the charges relating to an October 1984 attack on a United Arab Emirates diplomat, Mohamed Al Souweidi, and of a grenade attack on a cafe in the Via Veneto in September 1985. Mr. Souweidi survived but was seriously injured in a gun attack on his car. His woman passenger, however, was killed. In the attack on the Cafe de Paris, in which two grenades were thrown among the tables, some 40 people suffered injuries.

### Iran to send team to Moscow

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran is to send a high-level delegation to Russia to clarify "ambiguous points" in bilateral ties, after Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced an end to arms sales to Tehran, a newspaper said here Tuesday. Iran News, quoting reliable sources, said a top foreign ministry delegation would be sent in "the coming weeks." Tehran, which has always advanced cautiously in relations with its powerful neighbour in the north, has so far refrained from any official reaction to Mr. Yeltsin's remarks as "unfitting for a friendly country."

### Morocco names Gaza envoy

RABAT (AFP) — King Hassan II of Morocco has named a 59-year-old army officer to open the country's first liaison office on the newly autonomous, Palestinian-administered Gaza Strip, it was officially announced here. In appointing Colonel Mohammed Abdeslam Sinaoui, King Hassan also pledged his government's backing for "the implementation and development of the peace process in the Middle East," the information ministry said. Morocco announced on Sept. 1 that it would open liaison offices in Gaza City, formerly occupied by Israeli troops, and in the northern Israeli city of Tel Aviv. King Hassan has yet to announce the name of the Moroccan representative in Tel Aviv.

## Islamists call on Algerians to boycott France

NICOSIA (AFP) — The armed wing of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) called on Algerians Monday to launch a trade and cultural boycott of France, accusing Paris of interfering in the country's internal affairs.

In a statement published by the London-based Arab daily Al Hayat, the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) called on Algerians "to remember France's crimes against Algeria and to boycott French products by not importing or buying them."

It said the boycott should be extended to culture and tourism.

"If France is stubborn enough not to abandon its colonial policies, we will take the necessary measures," the statement added, without elaborating.

"The presence of police and French military experts" as well as "the participation of the French air force in bombing raids in the eastern Algerian mountains" showed a "flagrant French interference" in Algeria, the statement added.

It said the move came after a visit on Aug. 3 by French Defence Minister Francois Leotard whom the group dubbed "the minister of war."

Mr. Leotard made a brief visit to Algeria immediately following an attack in the Ain Allah district of Algiers in which five Frenchmen — three gendarmes and two consular officials — were killed.

The AIS also accused the Algerian government of an "unprecedented" escalation of "savagery massacres of civilians."

But it pledged not to "lay down its arms until an Islamic state is established" in Algeria, calling on Algerians to "join the struggle against France's crusade."

It was the first time the armed wing of the FIS has spoken out against France in such terms, adopting similar language to that used by the more radical Armed Islamic Group, an organisation held to be responsible for the Ain Allah attack.

The FIS is the leading force in a fundamentalist insurgency launched after the Algerian military cancelled the second round of parliamentary elections in January 1992 which FIS had been poised to win.

## PNA police begin to free rivals

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Twenty members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) have been released after being arrested following an attack on Israeli troops, police said Tuesday.

Gaza police chief Ghazi Al Jebaly said about 30 more were being questioned in connection with Saturday's attack, which left no one hurt, and over a statement by the group which blasted the Palestinian Authority.

But Nehad Abu Ghosh, a DFLP central committee member, said only 10 members of the organisation had been freed out of 65 detained.

He said those released included three freed for health reasons and four students. Meanwhile, the Islamic Resistance Front (Hamas), condemned the arrests and called on the authority to free all prisoners immediately.

"Hamas condemns the repeated campaigns of arrests and night raids and sieges of houses by large numbers of undercover policemen and security forces, which bring to mind the terrible practices of the (Israeli) occupation."

The statement specifically condemned the latest arrests of "comrades of the DFLP."

"We ask the Palestinian Authority to release im-

mediately all the prisoners and we confirm the necessity to stop these measures."

Meanwhile nine fundamentalists of the Islamic Jihad held in a Palestinian jail are taking Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat to the supreme court for detaining them without charge for almost a month, their lawyer said Tuesday.

The men were held on Sept. 7, two days after the killing in the Gaza Strip of an Israeli soldier, which was claimed by Islamic Jihad.

Their lawyer, Nazmi Oweida, said he had presented his plea to the judge of Gaza's supreme court who requested a reply from Mr. Arafat as well as three senior officials within eight days.

"The defendants were not presented to a judge, had no access to a lawyer for more than 20 days and were not charged," said Mr. Oweida, who is also deputy chairman of Gaza's bar association.

"We are going to court against Arafat because he is the one who ordered their detention. We are asking for their release and compensation for the time they spent in jail."

"We are complaining that it is a violation of the law to keep a detainee longer than

48 hours without charge," he said.

Along with Mr. Arafat, Justice Minister Freih Abu Medkkin, Palestinian police chief Nasr Yusef and attorney general Khaled Al Qudra were also named.

Mr. Oweida said he evoked a 1936 law in effect in Gaza which demanded that a detainee be presented to a judge within 48 hours. Another 1937 ruling allows "any party to take to court any other party" suspected of violating the law.

Mr. Arafat has abrogated Israeli military law, which had been in effect since the 1967 occupation, and reinstated pre-occupation legislation.

Mr. Oweida said Supreme Court Judge Radwan Al Agha sent the summons notice Tuesday to Mr. Qudra, as the government's representative.

But Mr. Qudra told AFP he had not heard of the case, and Al Agha was unavailable for comment.

"We have not been notified, but anyway our courts are open to everyone," he said.

Mr. Qudra said according to the law, detainees may be kept for longer than 48 hours depending on the severity of their case.

## Assad, Hogg review peace process

DAMASCUS (AP) — President Hafez Al Assad on Tuesday discussed the Middle East peace process and improving bilateral relations with British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg.

Presidential spokesman Joubran Korieh said that during the three-hour meeting Mr. Assad underlined Syria's adherence to the peace effort and its objectives.

He stressed that Britain and Europe could contribute by pushing the peace process towards those objectives, an apparent reference to pressuring Israel to commit itself to a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Asked by reporters whether Britain would seek to play a new role in pushing the peace effort forward, Mr. Hogg stressed that Britain supported U.S. efforts. He did not elaborate.

It was Mr. Hogg's third visit to Syria since 1991, when the U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace process was launched in Madrid, Spain.

Mr. Korieh said Mr. Hogg and Mr. Assad agreed to develop bilateral relations. Mr. Hogg told the official Syrian Arab News agency after his meeting with Mr. Assad that the discussions on boosting relations was "going well."



Hafez Al Assad

Hurd voiced support for lifting a European Union arms embargo imposed on Syria in 1986, saying he hoped it would help move Damascus towards a peace agreement with Israel.

Mr. Sharara, who asked for the embargo to be lifted, said it was long overdue since a British ban on arms sales to Israel, imposed after the 1983 invasion of Lebanon, was removed last May.

Mr. Hogg, number two in the British Foreign Office, has also held meetings with senior Syrian officials, including Prime Minister Mahmoud Zou'bi, on bilateral relations and other issues.

He said when he arrived Sunday that his visit was aimed at bolstering political and commercial relations.

Syria is opening up its economy, long tightly controlled by the state, and seeking foreign investment in several sectors.

On Monday, Mr. Hogg met his Syrian counterpart Nasser Kaddur, Deputy Economic Minister Salim Yassin and Oil Minister Nader Nabulsi.

The British envoy discussed with Mr. Kaddur the "latest developments in the peace process" with Israel and ways to boost bilateral ties, SANA said.